SOUL EATER

12

ATSUSHI OHKUBO

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vol. 12

by ATSUSHI OHKUBO

SOULS, yet hidden, quite obscure.

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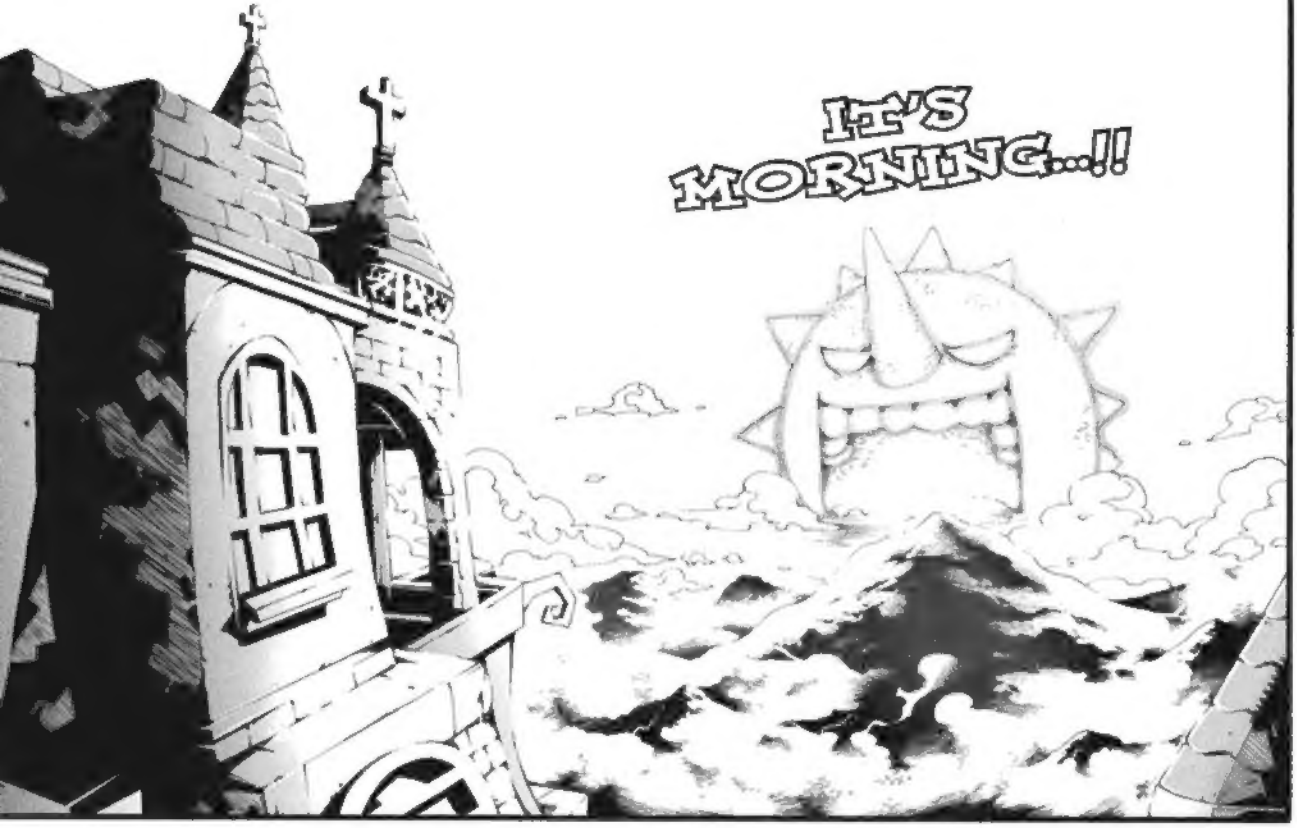
I CAME
TO MAKE
A DEAL.

SOUL EATER

CHAPTER 45: THE DEAL

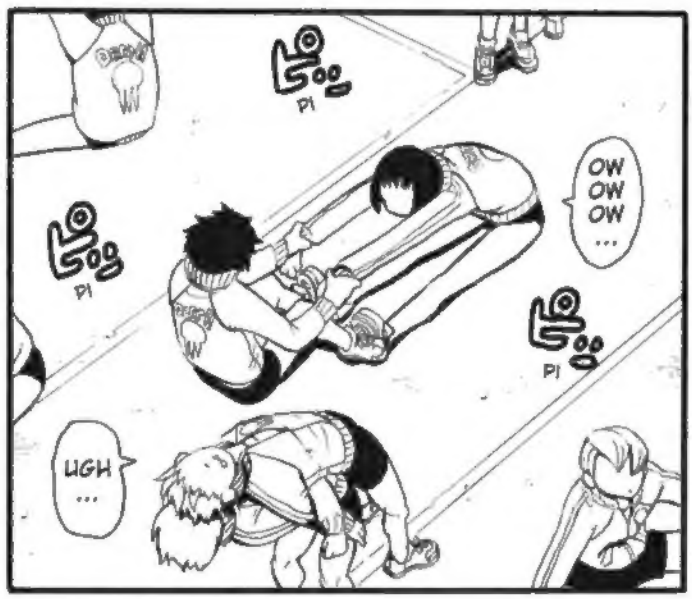
SIGN: LIVE OR DIE?

SOUL EATER


IT'S MORNING...!!

TODAY WE'RE DOING THE 100-METER DASH. AND YOU'RE BEING TIMED!!
PI
PI
PI
PI
PI
PI
(TWEE)
STRE-EETCH!
NAIGUS-SENSEI.

PI
PI
PI


PI
PI
PI
OW OW OW ...
UGH ...

YAWWN...
SO TIRED ...
PI (TWEE)
PETAA (PRESS)
ピー
ピッ
ピッ

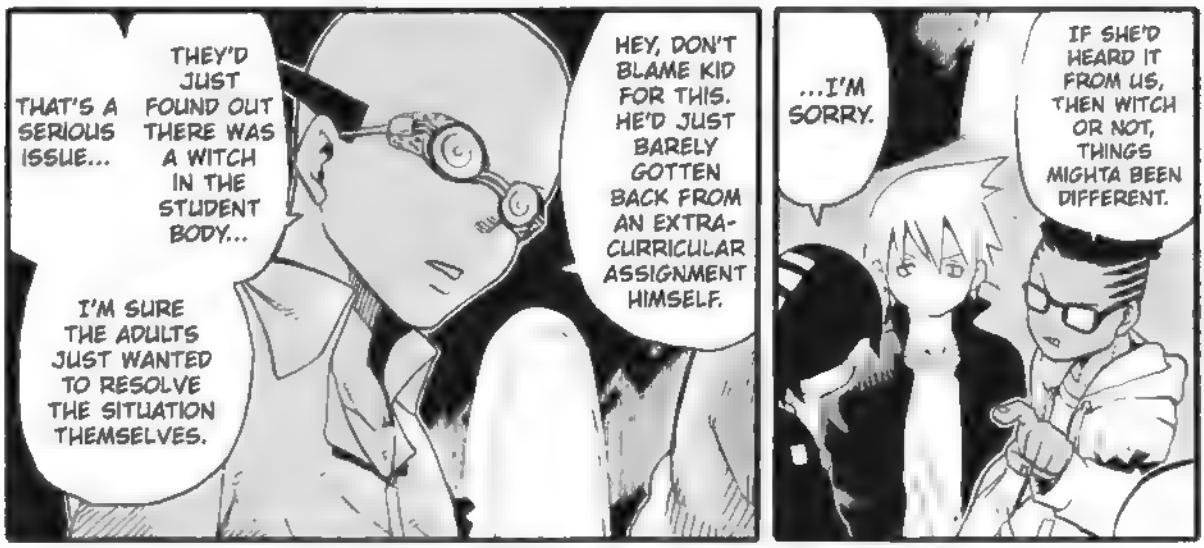
.....
.....
NAIGUS-SENSEI ...

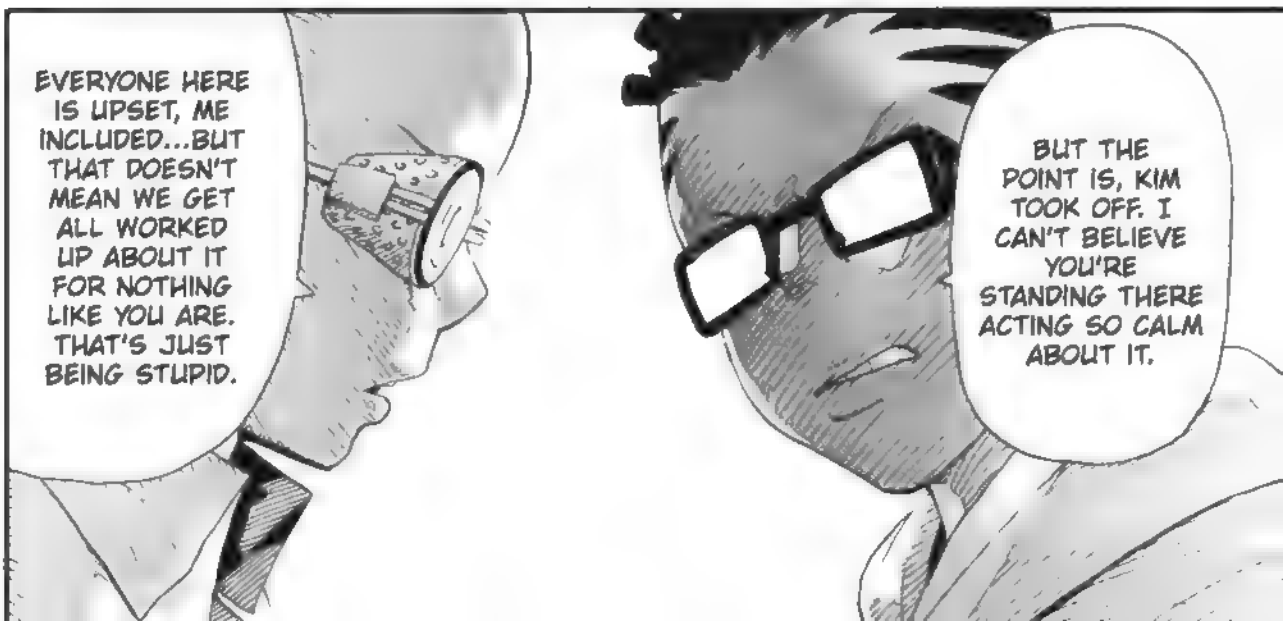
WHAT HAVE KIM AND JACQUE-LINE DONE!?

NAIGUS-SENSEI... WHAT'S GOING ON!?

EVERY-ONE JUST RELAX.
KID?
...
NOT AS A SHINIGAMI, BUT AS ONE OF THEIR FRIENDS...
...PLEASE ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN TO EVERYONE WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON WITH KIM.
NAIGUS-SENSEI ...
WHAT!? YOU'RE SAYING KIM'S A WITCH!?

IF YOU GOT SOME KINDA TIP THAT KIM WAS A WITCH, HOW COME YOU DIDN'T TELL US?
I JUST DON'T GET WHAT YOU GUYS WERE THINKING. YOU SURROUND SOMEONE WITH A BUNCH OF TWO-STAR THUGS, OF COURSE THEY'RE GONNA PANIC AND TAKE OFF.
BUT APPARENTLY WHEN IT COMES TO DWMA, WITCHES ARE A LOT MORE SKITTISH THAN WE THOUGHT...
WE SHOULD'VE PROCEEDED MORE CAREFULLY.
PLEASE UNDERSTAND—IT WASN'T DWMA'S INTENTION TO JUST DRAG KIM INTO CUSTODY WITHOUT HEARING HER SIDE OF IT.
IN FACT, WE WERE OPEN TO LISTENING TO WHATEVER SHE HAD TO SAY.


THAT'S A SERIOUS ISSUE...
THEY'D JUST FOUND OUT THERE WAS A WITCH IN THE STUDENT BODY...
I'M SURE THE ADULTS JUST WANTED TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION THEMSELVES.
HEY, DON'T BLAME KID FOR THIS. HE'D JUST BARELY GOTTEN BACK FROM AN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ASSIGNMENT HIMSELF.
...I'M SORRY.
IF SHE'D HEARD IT FROM US, THEN WITCH OR NOT, THINGS MIGHTA BEEN DIFFERENT.


EVERYONE HERE IS UPSET, ME INCLUDED...BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE GET ALL WORKED UP ABOUT IT FOR NOTHING LIKE YOU ARE. THAT'S JUST BEING STUPID.
BUT THE POINT IS, KIM TOOK OFF. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE STANDING THERE ACTING SO CALM ABOUT IT.

JUST SHUT UP!! THEY COULDA SNUCK BACK INTO THE CITY FOR ALL WE KNOW!! DAMN CUEBALL!!
KILIK, YOU SAW WHAT HAP-PENED.
THEY'RE NOT IN DEATH CITY... NOT ANY-MORE.
THERE'S NO WAY YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CATCH UP TO THEM ON FOOT.
IF I HANG AROUND HERE WITH YOU GUYS, IT'S JUST GONNA PISS ME OFF EVEN MORE.
I'M GOING OFF TO GO LOOK FOR KIM AND JACKIE... GO CHECK ALL THE LIKELY PLACES THEY MIGHT BE.
C'MON, KILIK... I'LL GO WITH YOU.
.....
SORRY.
SHE LOOKED SO SAD...
THE LOOK ON KIM'S FACE WHEN SHE TOOK OFF...

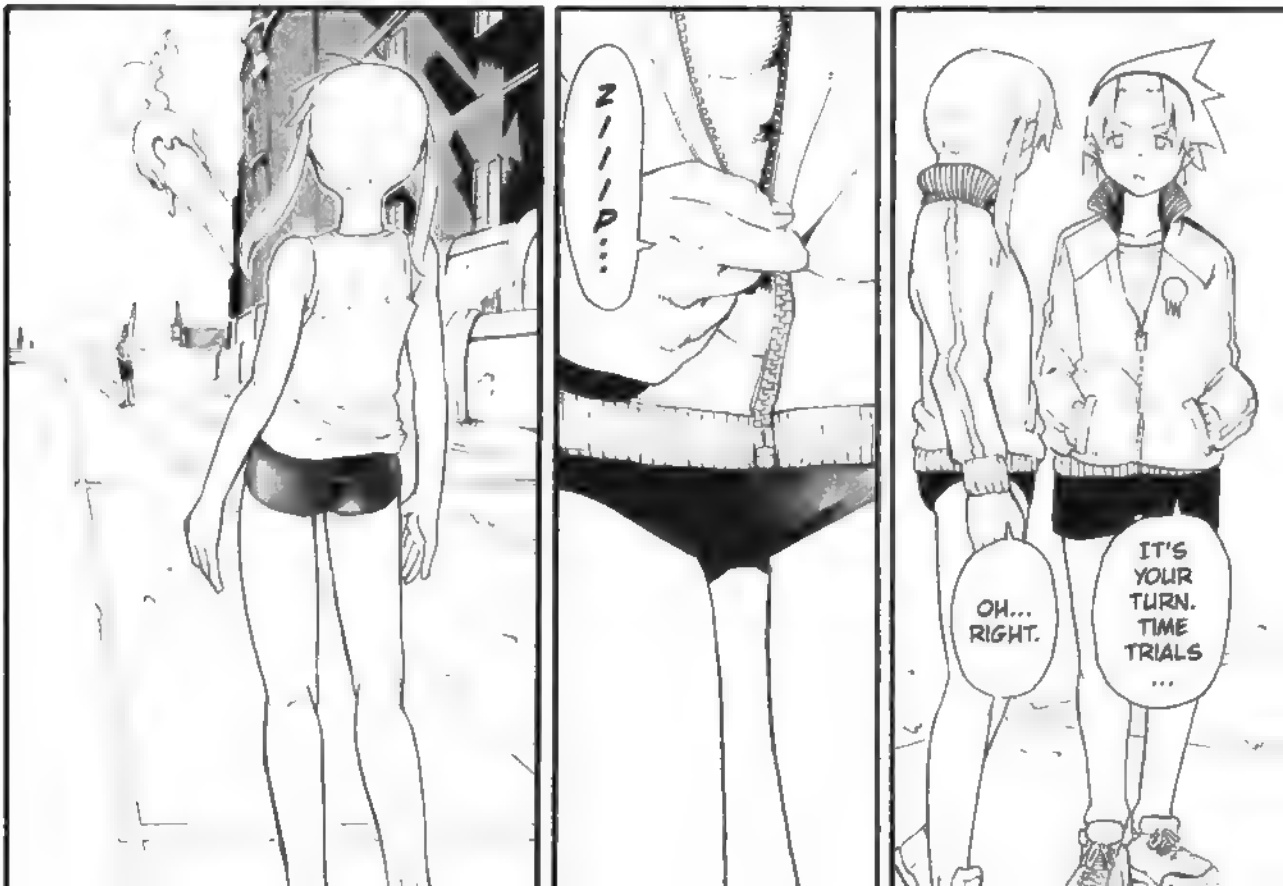
HEY, KID?
WHAT ABOUT THE REPORT ABOUT THE "THREE WITCHES"? WHERE'D THAT COME FROM, ANYWAY?
BUT KIM AND JACKIE... SPIES? NO WAY. I JUST DON'T BUY IT...
?
... THAT'S, UM... WELL ...
.....
!!
IT CAME FROM MEDUSA.

I...I DON'T BELIEVE IT.. MEDUSA'S HERE!?
MEDUSA'S RIGHT HERE INSIDE DWMA!?
ドン
DOKU (BADUM)
RIGHT NOW SHE'S BEING HELD UNDER STRICT GUARD IN ONE OF THE DUNGEON CELLS....
WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE CAME HERE FOR. SHE JUST SUDDENLY TURNED HERSELF OVER TO DWMA FOR SOME REASON.

ゴゴゴ

I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HER.

!!
HEY!
YO... MAKA...

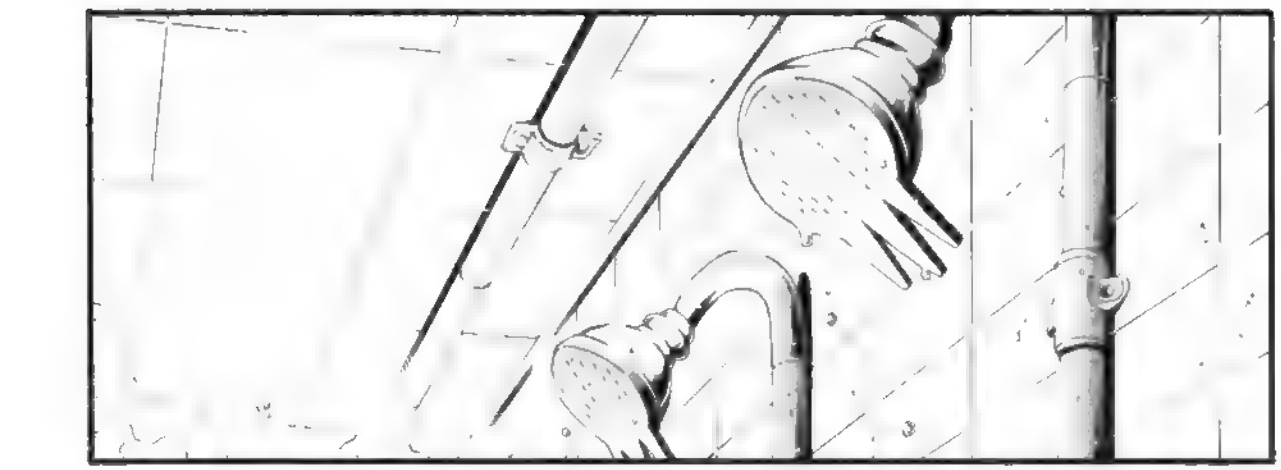

ZIIIP...
OH... RIGHT.
IT'S YOUR TURN. TIME TRIALS ...

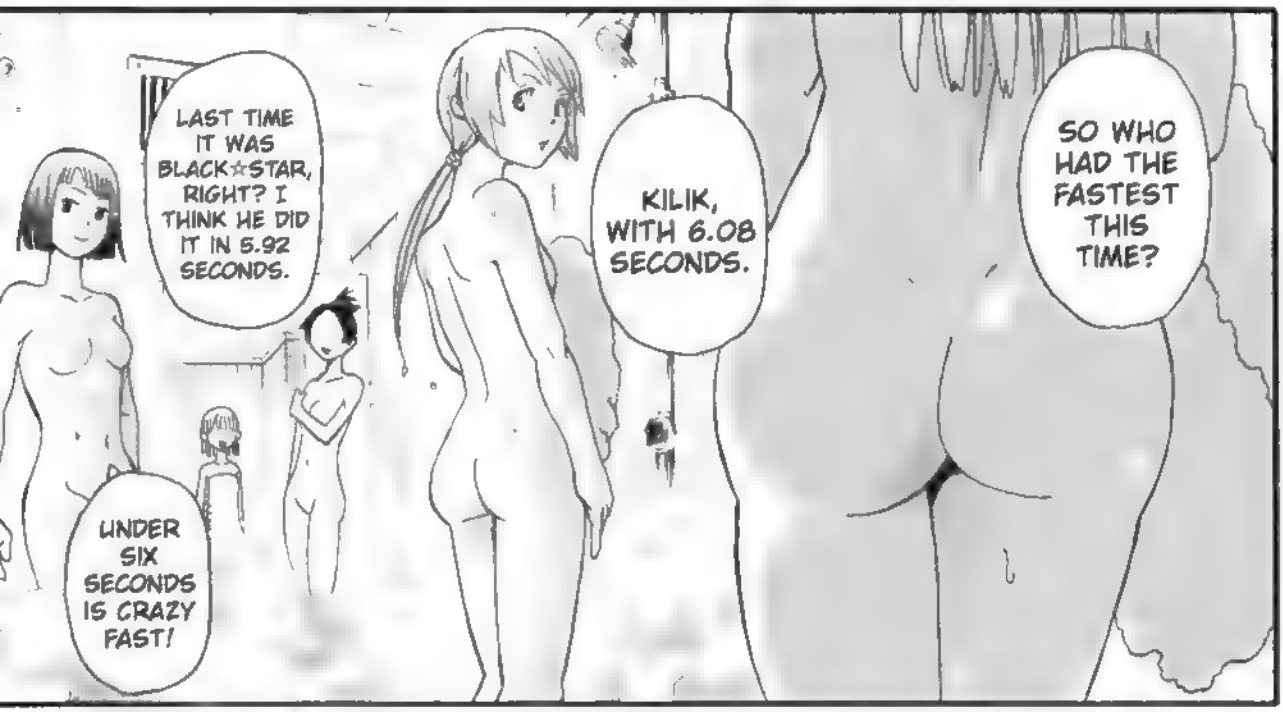
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HER.
ON YOUR MARK...!
HE WAS FINALLY STARTING TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH EVERYONE.
I'M SURE CRONA WANTED TO STAY. HE MUST'VE...
BUT THAT WOMAN... I SWEAR...

KACH CLICK
カチッ

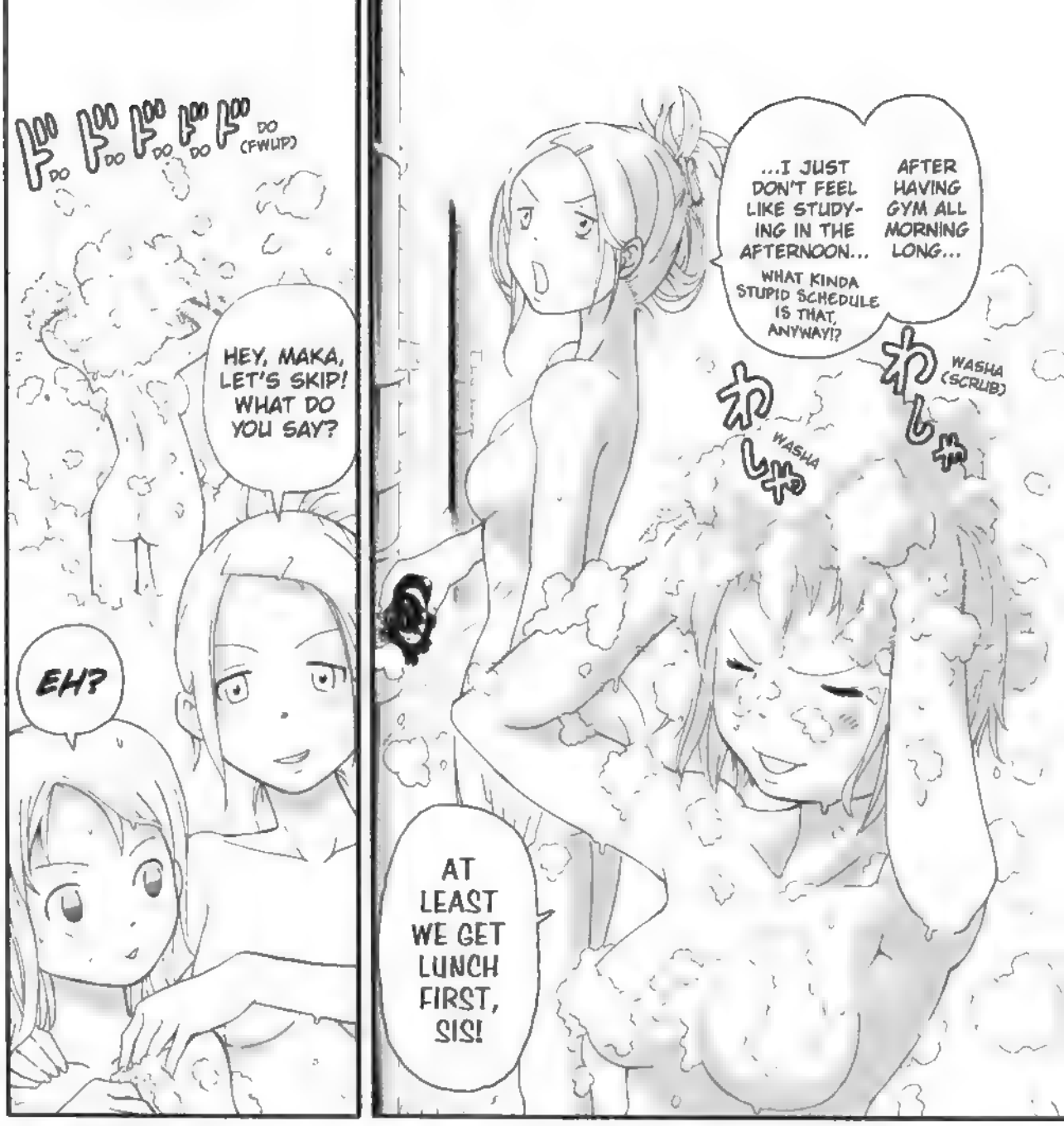
PUUUU (PHEW)
ふぅ

MAKA ALBARN: 8.92 SECONDS.
THANK YOU.
I WILL NEVER FORGIVE HER.
WELL! NOT BAD AT ALL.



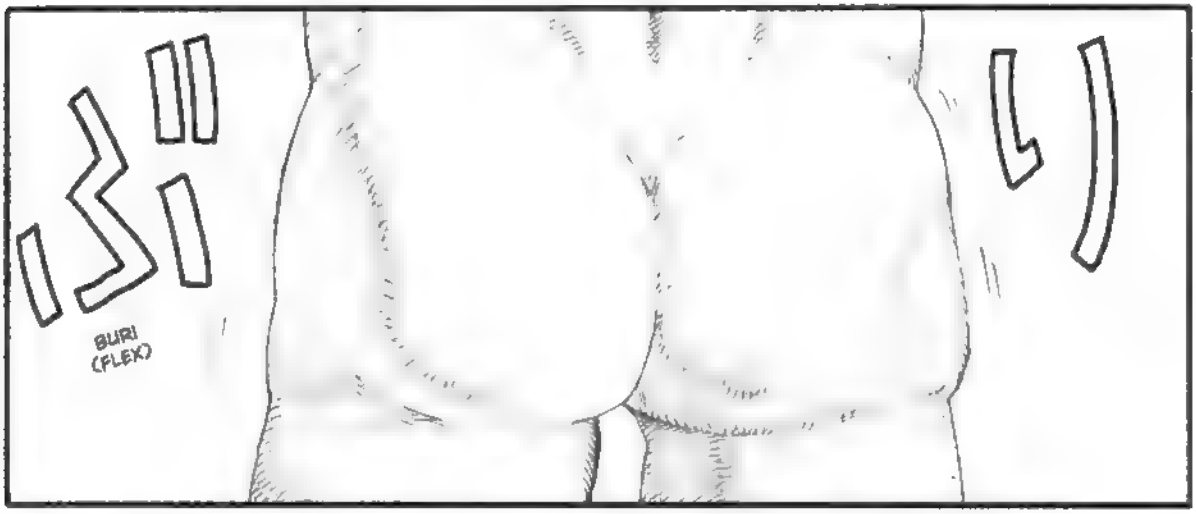

LAST TIME IT WAS BLACK☆STAR, RIGHT? I THINK HE DID IT IN 5.92 SECONDS.
UNDER SIX SECONDS IS CRAZY FAST!
KILIK, WITH 6.08 SECONDS.
SO WHO HAD THE FASTEST THIS TIME?

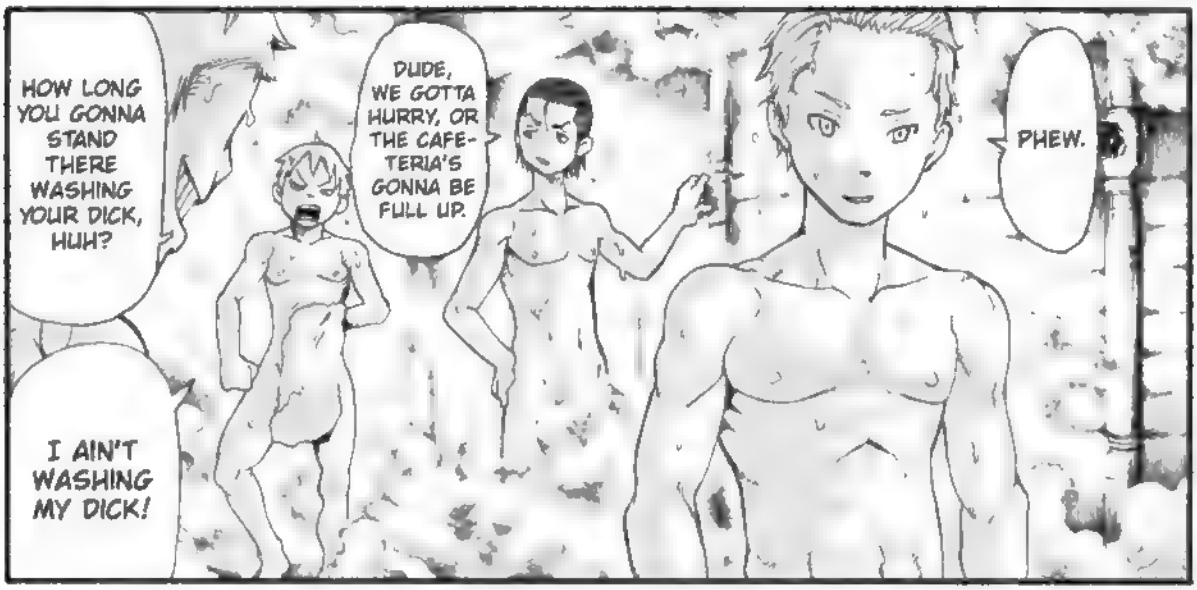
COMPLETELY SUCKED! IT'S 'COS THAT STUPID KID WAS SHOOTING FOR EIGHT SECONDS FLAT.
HEY, LIZ... WHAT WAS KID'S TIME?

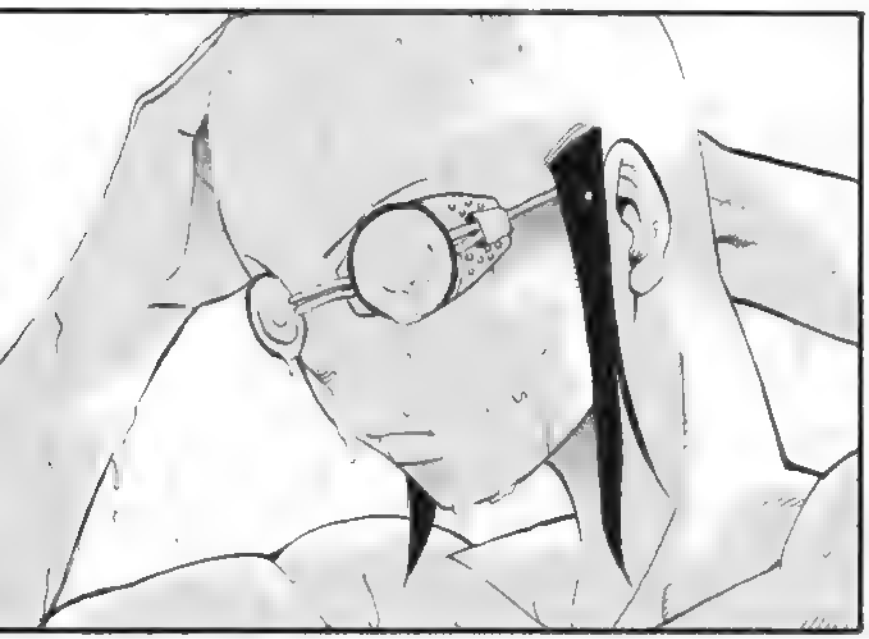

FOO FOO FOO FOO FOO DO (FWUP)
HEY, MAKA, LET'S SKIP! WHAT DO YOU SAY?
EH?
...I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE STUDYING IN THE AFTERNOON...
AFTER HAVING GYM ALL MORNING LONG...
WHAT KINDA STUPID SCHEDULE IS THAT, ANYWAY!?
WASHA
WASHA (SCRUB)
AT LEAST WE GET LUNCH FIRST, SIS!

SFX: PUA (GASP)

I SHOULD FOLLOW HER GOOD EXAMPLE!!
BOO BOO
WHAT? STUDYING AT THE LIBRARY?
I CAN'T. I HAVE SOMETHING I NEED TO DO OVER THE LUNCH BREAK.


BURI
(FLEX)

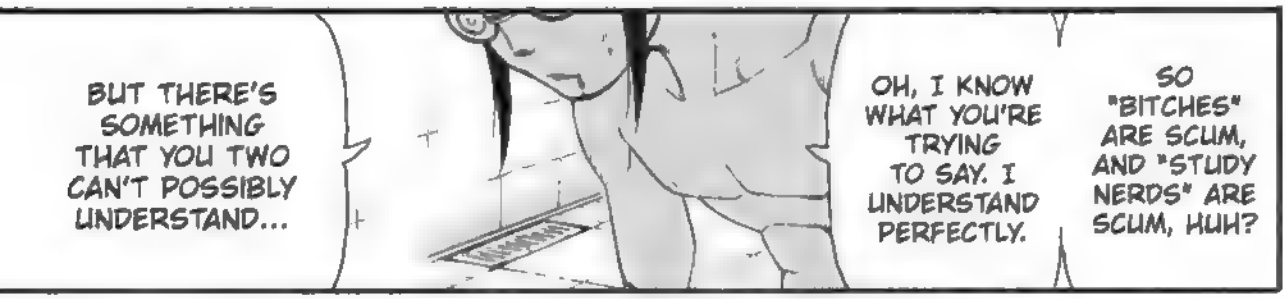

HOW LONG YOU GONNA STAND THERE WASHING YOUR DICK, HUH?
DUDE, WE GOTTA HURRY, OR THE CAFE-TERIA'S GONNA BE FULL UP.
PHEW.
I AIN'T WASHING MY DICK!



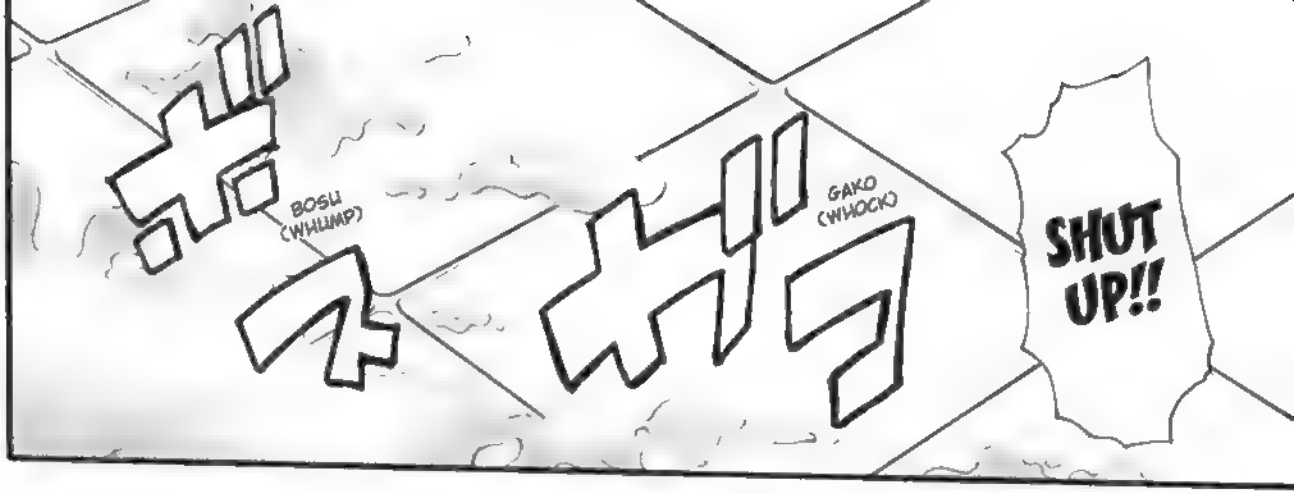
GEEZ, SHUT UP ALREADY. WHAT DO YOU GUYS WANNA EAT?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
THEN WASH IT, LOSER. THAT'S DISGUST-ING.
ZAZAAAAA (SHAAAA)

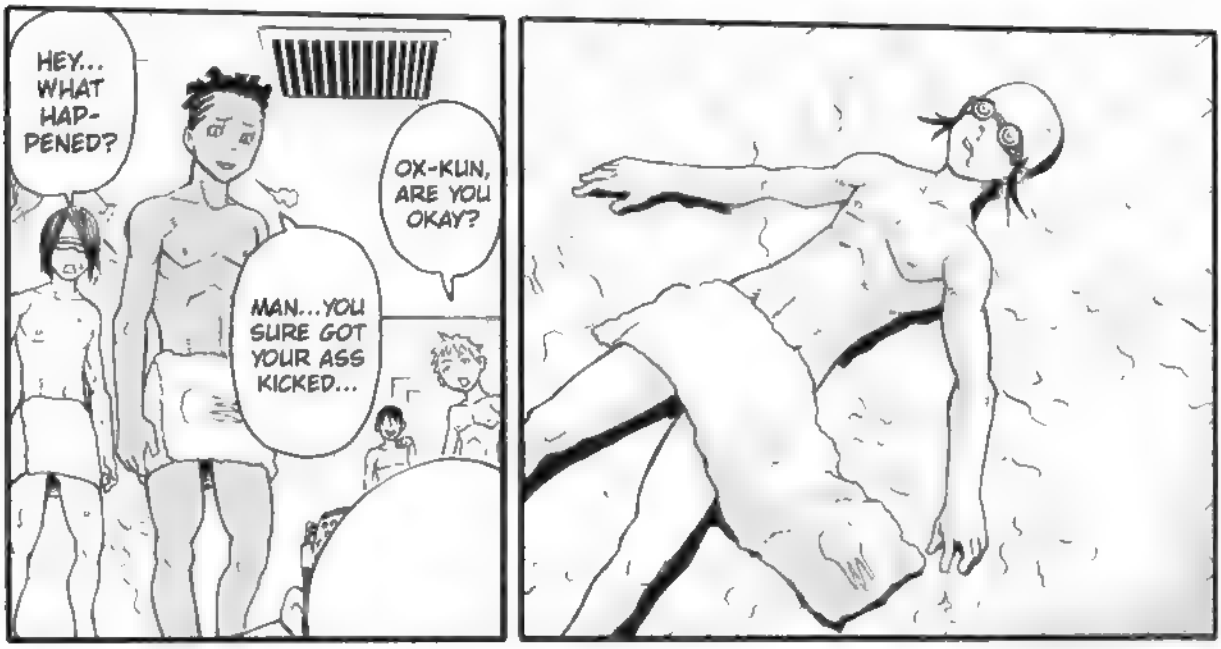
EXACTLY!! THAT KINDA GIRL'S JUST SCUM. STUPID CHICKS LIKE THAT MAKE ME SICK.
...
SERIOUSLY? WELL, IT DON'T SURPRISE ME. SHE WAS CUTE AND ALL, BUT THAT BAD ATTITUDE OF HERS TOTALLY RUINED THE GOOD STUFF.
SHEESH, WHAT'S UP WITH THOSE GUYS? TALKING AND GIGGLING LIKE A BUNCH OF GIRLS.
ANYHOW, LIKE I WAS SAYING...THERE'S A STORY GOING 'ROUND ABOUT THAT KIM GIRL BEING A WITCH, DUDE.
OH, OX-KUN... THAT'S RIGHT. YOU TOTALLY HAD THE HOTS FOR THAT KIM, DIDN'CHA?
GUESS EVEN A BRAINIAC LIKE YOU STILL THINKS WITH HIS EYES WHEN IT COMES TO CHICKS, EH? THAT GIRL WAS A BITCH, MAN.
AHH... I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR THIS...
UNH?
HEY, YOU TWO...HOW ABOUT YOU STOP TALKING BAD ABOUT PEOPLE BEHIND THEIR BACKS, HUH?
GO (WHACK)
SHUT YOUR FACE, NERD!!
IF I STAND IN THIS STEAMY PLACE MUCH LONGER WITH YOU TWO DIRTBAGS, I'LL START GROWING MOLD!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO STAND THERE INSULTING KIM, WE CAN TAKE THIS OUTSIDE!!

YOU STUDY ALL THE DAMN TIME, BUT YOU STILL DON'T HAVE THE COMMON SENSE WE DO? WHAT A LOSER!!
YOU GOT NO STRATEGY, MAN. YOU GOT THE DEPTH OF A PIECE OF PAPER. THE WAY WE FIGHT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT—I'M TALKING BATTLE OF WITS, BRO!! GET IT?
BUT NO...I GUESS YOU'LL NEVER GET IT. NOT AS LONG AS YOU STAY STUCK BEHIND A DESK LIKE THE STUDY-NERD SCUM YOU ARE.
WHY WOULD WE GO AND DO THAT?
STEPPING OUTSIDE TO FIGHT A GUY WHO'S STRONGER OUTDOORS?
YOU'RE PRETTY DAMN STUPID FOR A GEEK!

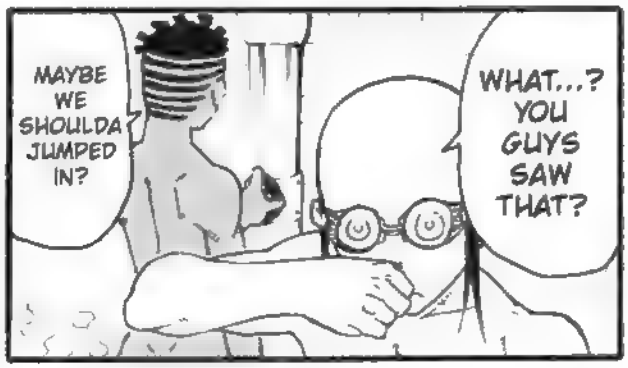

SO "BITCHES" ARE SCUM, AND "STUDY NERDS" ARE SCUM, HUH?
OH, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY. I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY.
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING THAT YOU TWO CAN'T POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND...

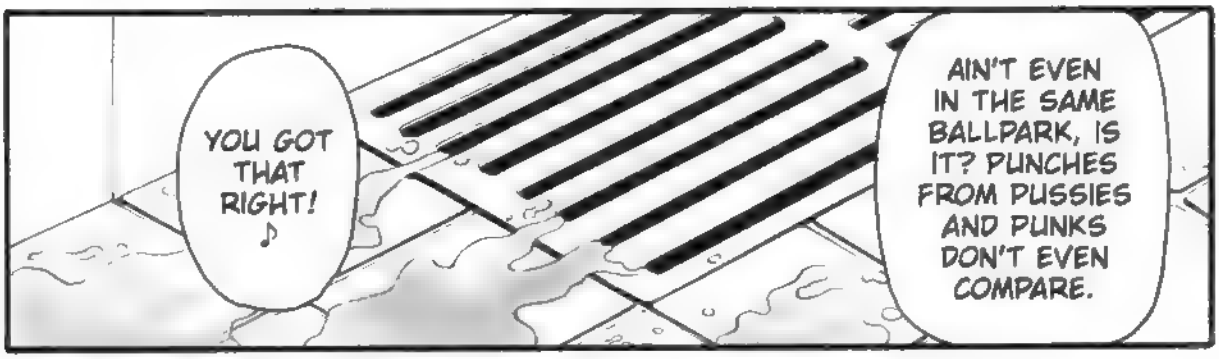
KIM IS A WONDERFUL PERSON!! SHE'S THE BEST!!

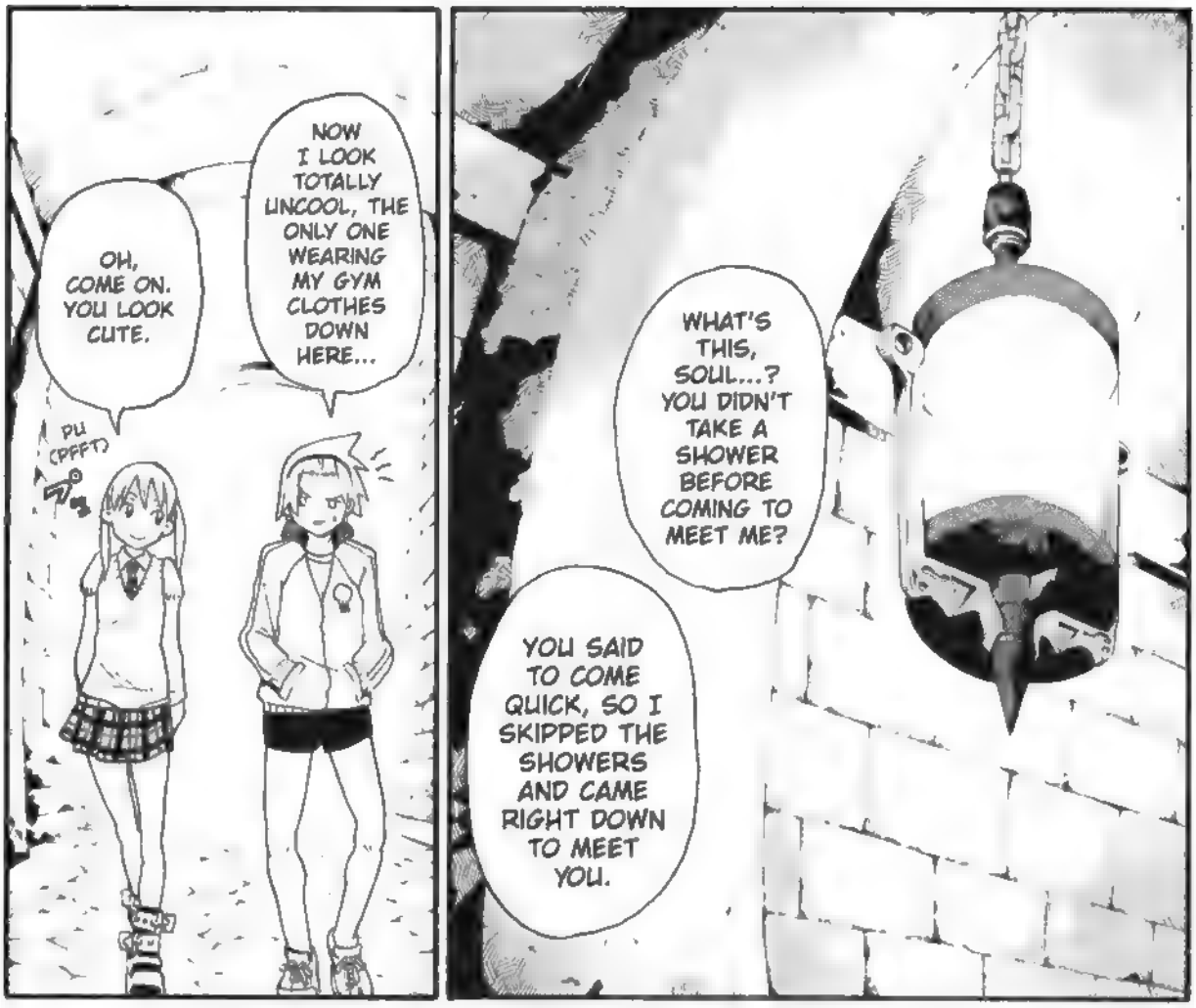

BOSU (WHUMP)
GAKO (WHACK)
SHUT UP!!


HEY... WHAT HAP-PENED?
OX-KUN, ARE YOU OKAY?
MAN...YOU SURE GOT YOUR ASS KICKED...

ZAAAA (SHAAA)
NAH.
COMPARED TO BLACK☆STAR, THE WAY THOSE GUYS PUNCH...


MAYBE WE SHOULDA JUMPED IN?
WHAT...? YOU GUYS SAW THAT?


YOU GOT THAT RIGHT! ♪
AIN'T EVEN IN THE SAME BALLPARK, IS IT? PUNCHES FROM PUSSIES AND PUNKS DON'T EVEN COMPARE.


NOW I LOOK TOTALLY UNCOOL, THE ONLY ONE WEARING MY GYM CLOTHES DOWN HERE...
OH, COME ON. YOU LOOK CUTE.
PU (PFFT)
WHAT'S THIS, SOUL...? YOU DIDN'T TAKE A SHOWER BEFORE COMING TO MEET ME?
YOU SAID TO COME QUICK, SO I SKIPPED THE SHOWERS AND CAME RIGHT DOWN TO MEET YOU.

NO KID-DING.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GOT YOUR HANDS ON THAT.
BUT ARE YOU SURE THIS IS OKAY, WHAT WE'RE DOING?

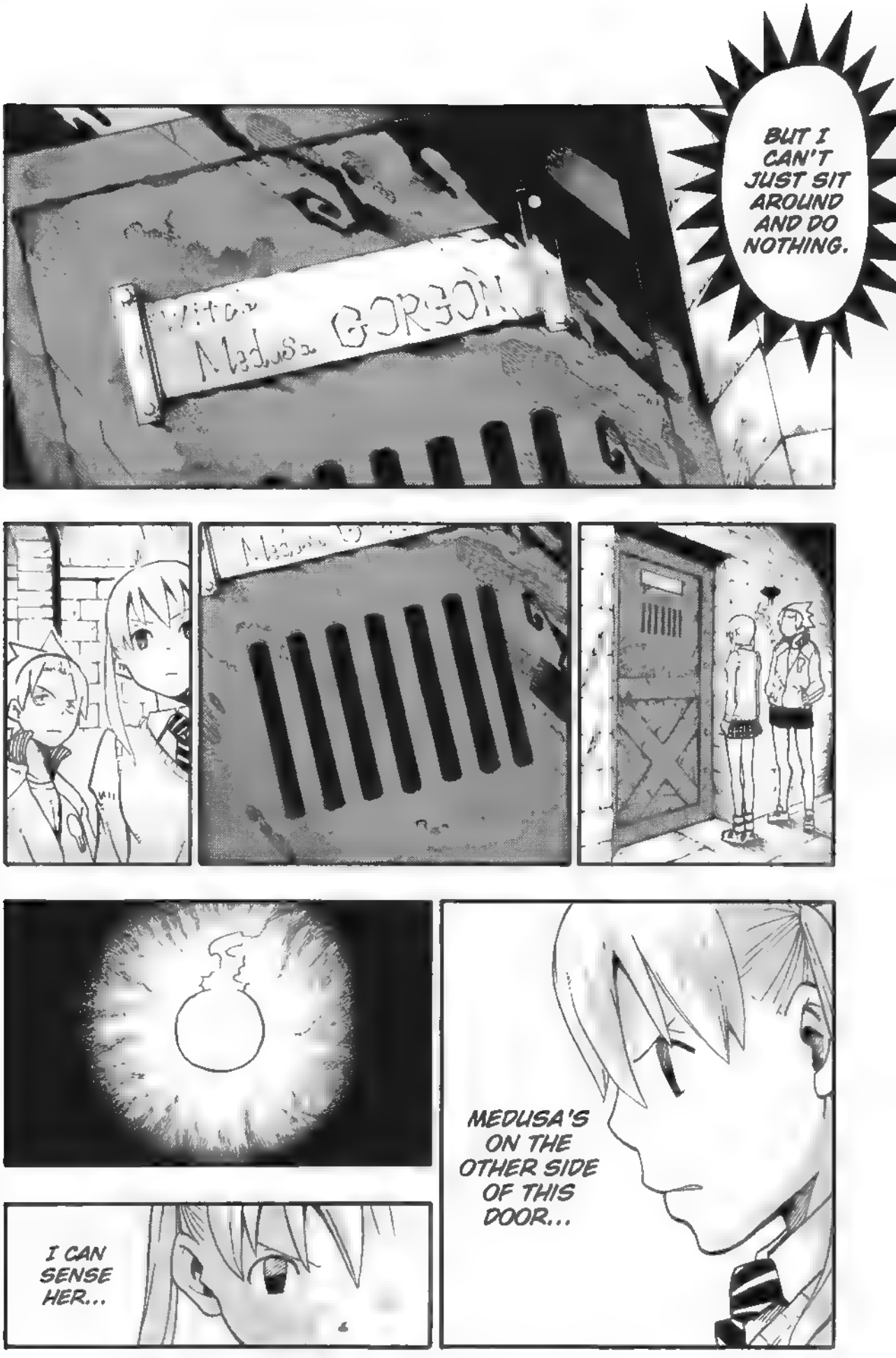
HOW'D YOU MANAGE TO GET YOUR PSYCHO-PERV DAD TO LEND YOU HIS I.D. CARD, ANYWAY?
Death S
I GET THE IDEA...
OKAY, OKAY... I'VE HEARD ENOUGH.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...!! MY LITTLE MAKA ASKING ME FOR A FAVOR...!! SHE FINALLY THINKS OF ME AS HER "PA—
THERE'S THIS BOOK I WANNA BORROW FROM THE LIBRARY, BUT THEY WON'T LET ME 'COS MY STUDENT RANK IS STILL TOO LOW. SO...COULD I MAYBE...USE YOUR I.D. CARD...?
UMM... DAD?
IT WAS EASY.
HEH-HEH-HEH!
OKAY...
LUNCH BREAK'S ALMOST OVER!!
LET'S GET GOING!!
NOW C'MON, AL-READY!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME.
WHA ...?
SHEESH... ARE YOU ALWAYS PULLING CRAP LIKE THAT?
YEAH, RIGHT. AND I'M THE POPE.

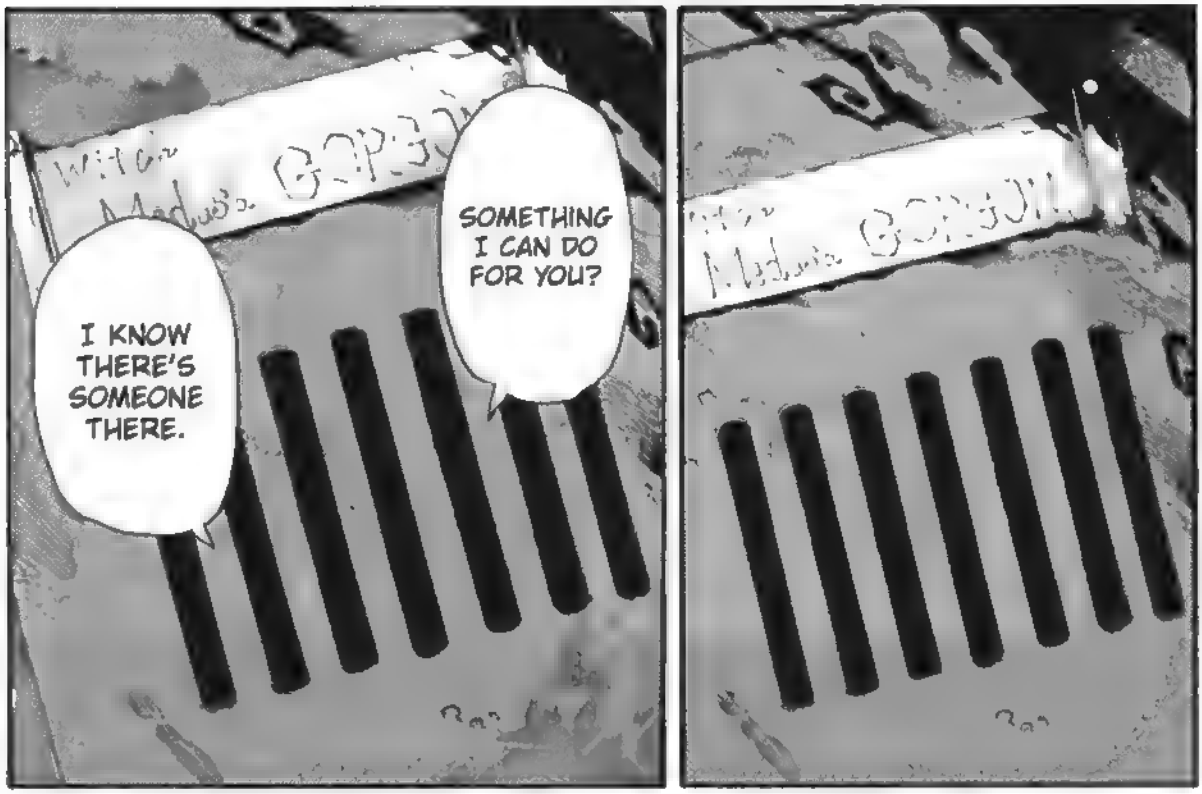
WHO ARE YOU HERE TO SEE?
OKAY, OKAY, SOUNDS GOOD.
HERE'S HIS I.D. CARD.
DEATH SCYTHE-SAMA ASKED US TO CONVEY A MESSAGE FOR HIM.

ALL RIGHT, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THANKS.
OKAY. TAKE THIS ONE ALL THE WAY BACK AND TAKE A RIGHT. IT'S RIGHT THERE THERE'LL BE A SIGN—YOU CAN'T MISS IT.
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO PASS THE MESSAGE FROM OUTSIDE.
BUT I'LL TELL YOU NOW, I'M NOT LETTING YOU KIDS INSIDE THE CELL—IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.

MEDUSA.

I KNOW THAT.
FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THIS IS A HUGE WASTE OF TIME.
WE CAN TALK TO THAT WITCH ALL YOU WANT, BUT SHE'S NOT GONNA JUST ROLL OVER AND GIVE UP CRONA'S LOCATION, YOU KNOW.
HM?
MAKA?

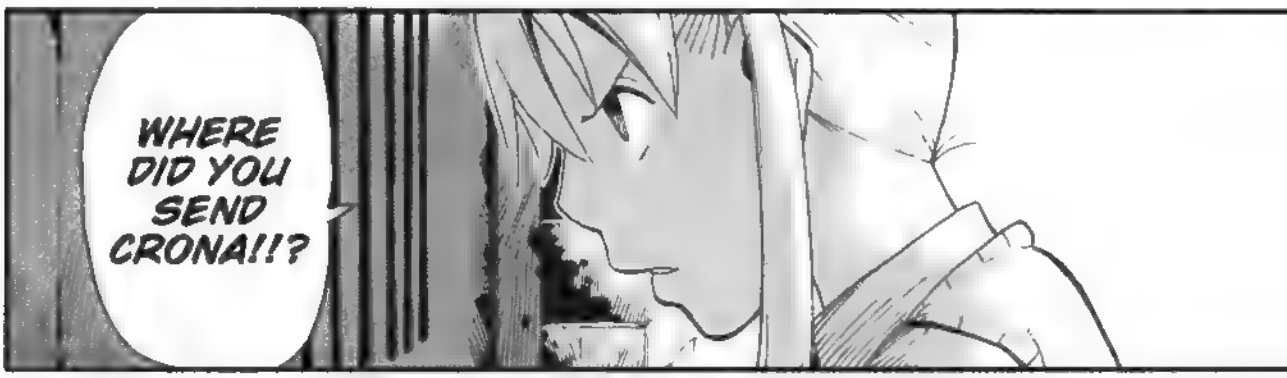

BUT I CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND AND DO NOTHING.
Witch Medusa GORGON
I CAN SENSE HER...
MEDUSA'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS DOOR...


I KNOW THERE'S SOMEONE THERE.
SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?

CAN I MAYBE GET A GLASS OF WATER IN HERE?
I'M A LITTLE THIRSTY.
...

IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, COULD YOU PLEASE BRING ME SOME WATER?
THERE IS SOMEONE THERE, RIGHT?
THIS WOMAN...

GAN
(CLANG)


WHERE DID YOU SEND CRONA!!?

TELL ME WHERE CRONA IS RIGHT NOW!!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO I AM!!

OH? A GIRL'S VOICE...? I WONDER WHO THAT COULD BE.
.....!?

YOU MUST BE ONE OF THE FRIENDS CRONA MADE AT DWMA, HMM?
CRONA? AH!! OF COURSE.

STUPID..... SHE DOESN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHO I AM.
DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME!! I KNOW YOU TOOK CRONA AWAY SOME-WHERE!!
SO HOW IS THE CHILD DOING? WELL?
AND AS FOR YOU, YOU BITCH, ENJOY SPENDING THE REST OF YOUR LIFE IN A PITCH-BLACK SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CELL.
I HAVE TO SAY, IT'S A FITTING END FOR A GUTTER HAG.
YOU'RE JUST MAKING YOURSELF MADDER AND MADDER. THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME.
YOU'RE NEVER GONNA GET A STRAIGHT ANSWER OUT OF THIS WITCH.
ALL RIGHT, I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH. I TOLD YOU THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
WE'LL BE BACK!! YOU REMEMBER THAT, YOU BITCH!!
C'MON, LET'S GO.

UNFORTU-
NATELY FOR
YOU, DWMA
WON'T HAVE
ANY CHOICE
BUT TO
ACCEPT MY
HELP.
Witch
Medusa GORGON
AH, MAKA-
CHAN...
SOUL-KUN...
HEH-HEH-
HEH...

BATAN
(SLAM)

BIKN
(CRUMBLE)
BE
CARE-
FUL,
SIR.
THANK
YOU...I
CAN TAKE
IT FROM
HERE.

DINNER.

SO BRIGHT...

WHAT'S THIS, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
MOGU
MOGU (CHEW)
YOU SHOULD GIVE THAT BODY BACK TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER.
YOU HAVE A KID YOURSELF... I'M SURE YOU KNOW HOW IT FEELS.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A WITCH LIKE YOU, FEEDING SOMEONE LIKE THIS REMINDS ME OF WHEN MY BABY GIRL WAS LITTLE.
THERE'S REALLY NO LIMIT TO HOW LOW YOU'LL GO, IS THERE?
YEAH, AND MEANWHILE YOU USE POOR LITTLE RACHEL'S BODY AS A HUMAN SHIELD SO WE CAN'T LAY A HAND ON YOU.
IT'S JUST A LOANER... JUST UNTIL I CAN BUILD MY MAGIC POWER BACK UP.
I'LL GIVE IT BACK WHEN THE TIME COMES.
WE DID OUR HOMEWORK— THAT'S THE BODY OF RACHEL BOYD, FIVE YEARS OLD.
A MISSING CHILD WARRANT WAS PUT OUT FOR THE GIRL ABOUT A MONTH AGO.

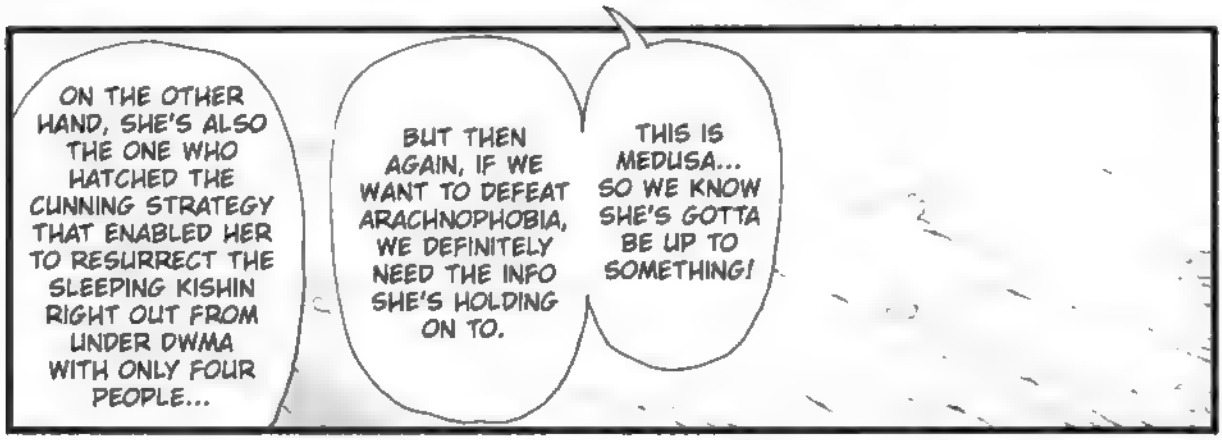
SO? DID YOU LOCATE "BREW"?
LYING WITCH. IT'S EXACTLY THE KIND OF THING SHE'D DO TO MAKE SURE SHE WAS DOUBLY AND TRIPLY INSURED...
MY ONLY "SHIELD" IS THE INFORMATION I HAVE THAT DWMA WANTS.
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA... THAT WAS NEVER MY INTENTION.
WE HAD IT TESTED, AND IT'S THE REAL THING, ALL RIGHT.
IT WAS EXACTLY WHERE YOU SAID IT WOULD BE.
YES.
CHAINS LIKE THESE...YOU COULD'VE GOTTEN OUT OF THEM ANY TIME YOU FELT LIKE IT.
TCH
...
NOT THAT I'M SAYING I EXPECT ANYTHING IN EXCHANGE FOR "BREW," BUT COULD YOU PLEASE TAKE THESE RESTRAINTS OFF? MY BODY'S AS STIFF AS A BOARD.
THEN WON'T YOU START TRUSTING ME JUST A LITTLE BIT?
IT'S NOT AS IF I'LL RUN OFF AND START RAISING HELL RIGHT SMACK DAB IN THE MIDDLE OF DWMA, RIGHT?
THE POINT IS TO GET YOU TO DO IT...
IT DOESN'T MEAN A THING IF I DO IT MYSELF.

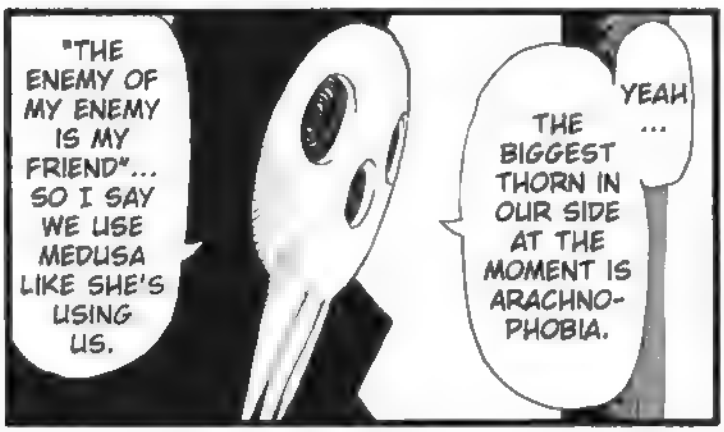
HNNGH!
SFX: PON (PAT) PON PON
GAHA GKAGAMO
BUT NEVER MIND ALL THAT. ALL WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU IS WHERE ARACHNE'S HIDING.
SH... SHUT UP!
IT'S JUST REFLEX!
I CAN DUST MYSELF OFF
HEY, I'M NOT ACTUALLY A CHILD... THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO DO THAT.
PON
PON
IT'S TIME TO MAKE OUR DEAL.
BUT FROM HERE ON OUT, THINGS ARE DIFFERENT.
THE NAMES OF THE THREE WITCHES... THE DEMON TOOL "BREW"...
...THOSE WERE FREEBIES FROM ME TO YOU.

MEDUSA WANTS TO SPEAK WITH ME IN PERSON...?

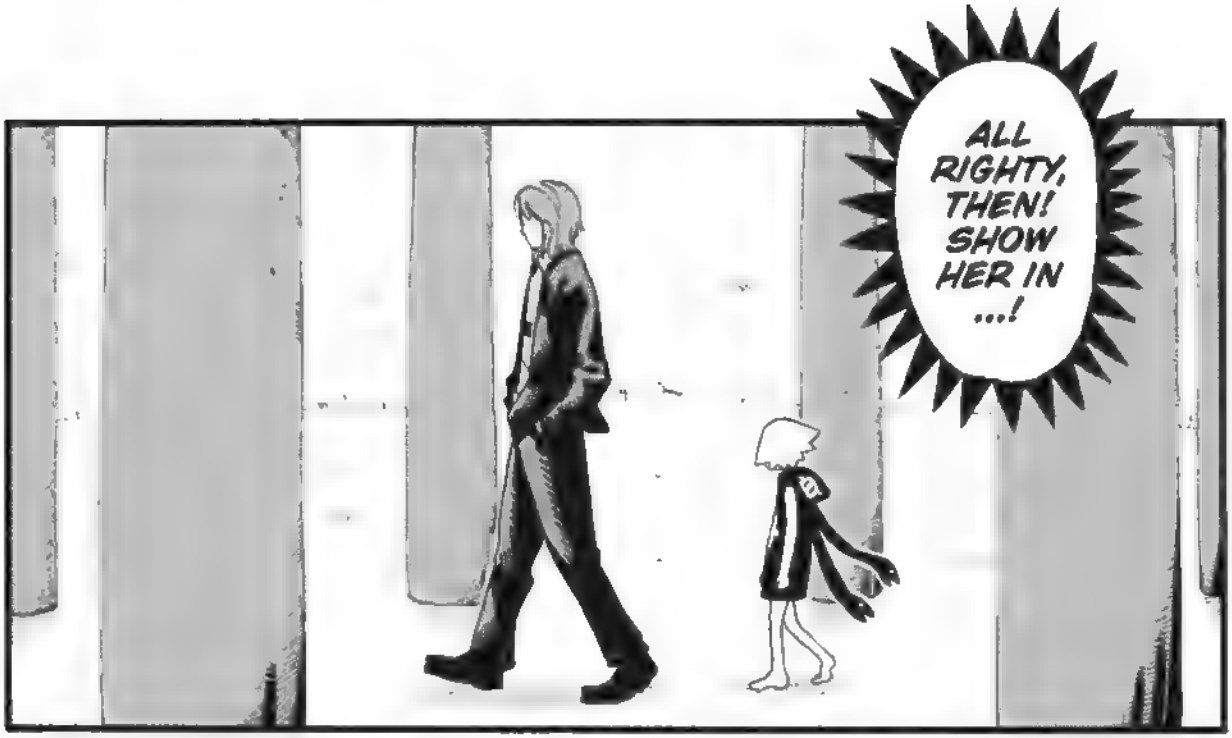
HMM ...

APPARENTLY SHE DOESN'T FEEL SAFE MAKING A DEAL WITH ME ACTING AS GO-BETWEEN.
YES ...


ON THE OTHER HAND, SHE'S ALSO THE ONE WHO HATCHED THE CUNNING STRATEGY THAT ENABLED HER TO RESURRECT THE SLEEPING KISHIN RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER DWMA WITH ONLY FOUR PEOPLE...
BUT THEN AGAIN, IF WE WANT TO DEFEAT ARACHNOPHOBIA, WE DEFINITELY NEED THE INFO SHE'S HOLDING ON TO.
THIS IS MEDUSA... SO WE KNOW SHE'S GOTTA BE UP TO SOMETHING!


"THE ENEMY OF MY ENEMY IS MY FRIEND"... SO I SAY WE USE MEDUSA LIKE SHE'S USING US.
YEAH ...
THE BIGGEST THORN IN OUR SIDE AT THE MOMENT IS ARACHNO-PHOBIA.

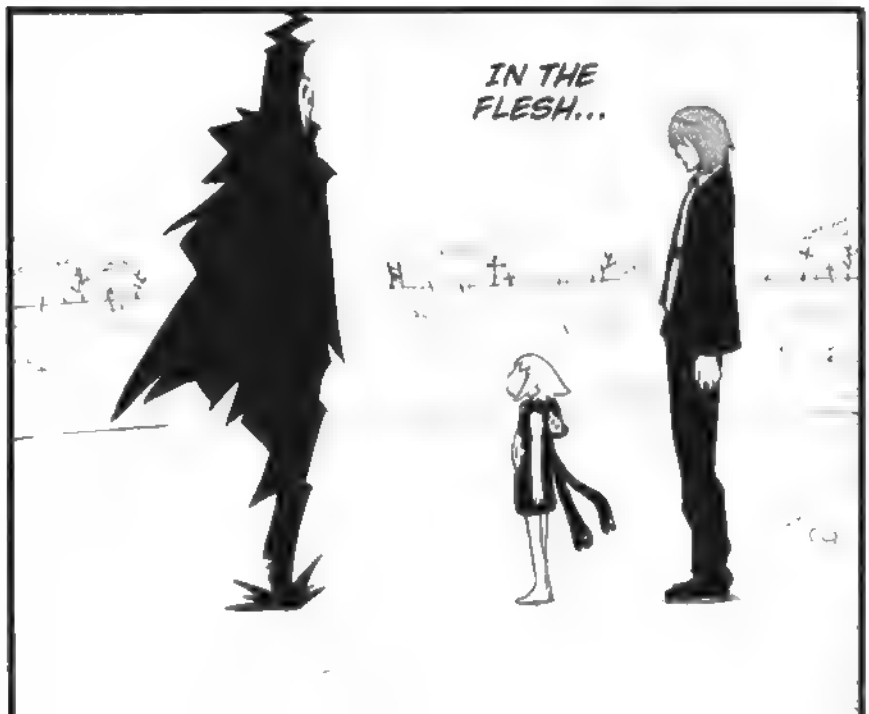
SHE STILL HASN'T INDICATED THE SPECIFIC TERMS OF THE DEAL SHE WANTS TO MAKE. SHOULD WE HEAR HER OUT?


ALL RIGHTY, THEN! SHOW HER IN ...!

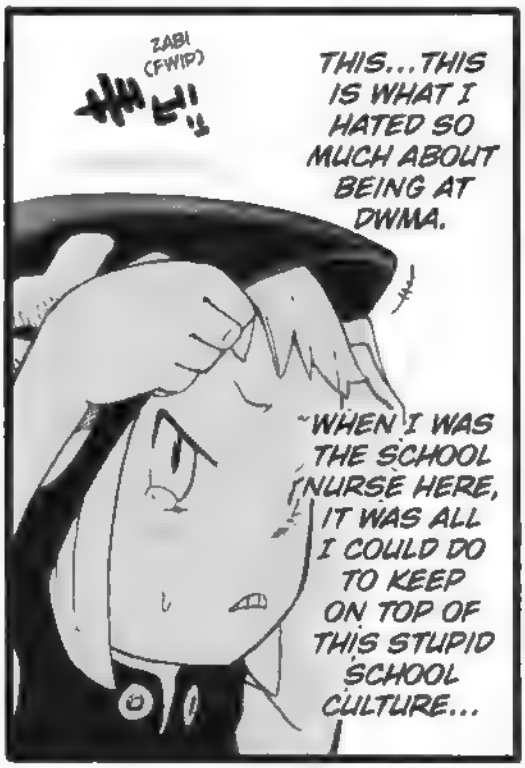
.....
.....
SOWA (FIDGET)
SOWA

I DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT YOU!
DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF!
BUT THANKS FOR YOUR CONCERN.
YOU'RE A GENUINELY KIND MAN.
AT ANY RATE, COULD YOU PLEASE JUST HURRY UP AND ESCORT ME IN?
THIS WILL BE MY FIRST TIME STANDING FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE SHINIGAMI...I MEAN, NOT AS THE SCHOOL NURSE, BUT AS AN ACTUAL WITCH.
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK PRETTY NERVOUS FOR BEING SO COOL.

ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
GO
(RUMBLE)

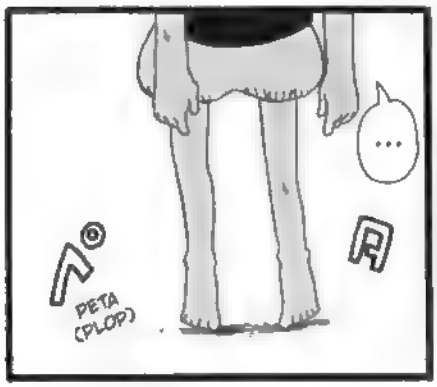

IN THE FLESH...

SHINIGAMI


ZABI
(FWIP)
THIS...THIS IS WHAT I HATED SO MUCH ABOUT BEING AT DWMA.
~WHEN I WAS THE SCHOOL NURSE HERE, IT WAS ALL I COULD DO TO KEEP ON TOP OF THIS STUPID SCHOOL CULTURE...

SFX: FUU (PANT) FUU FUU

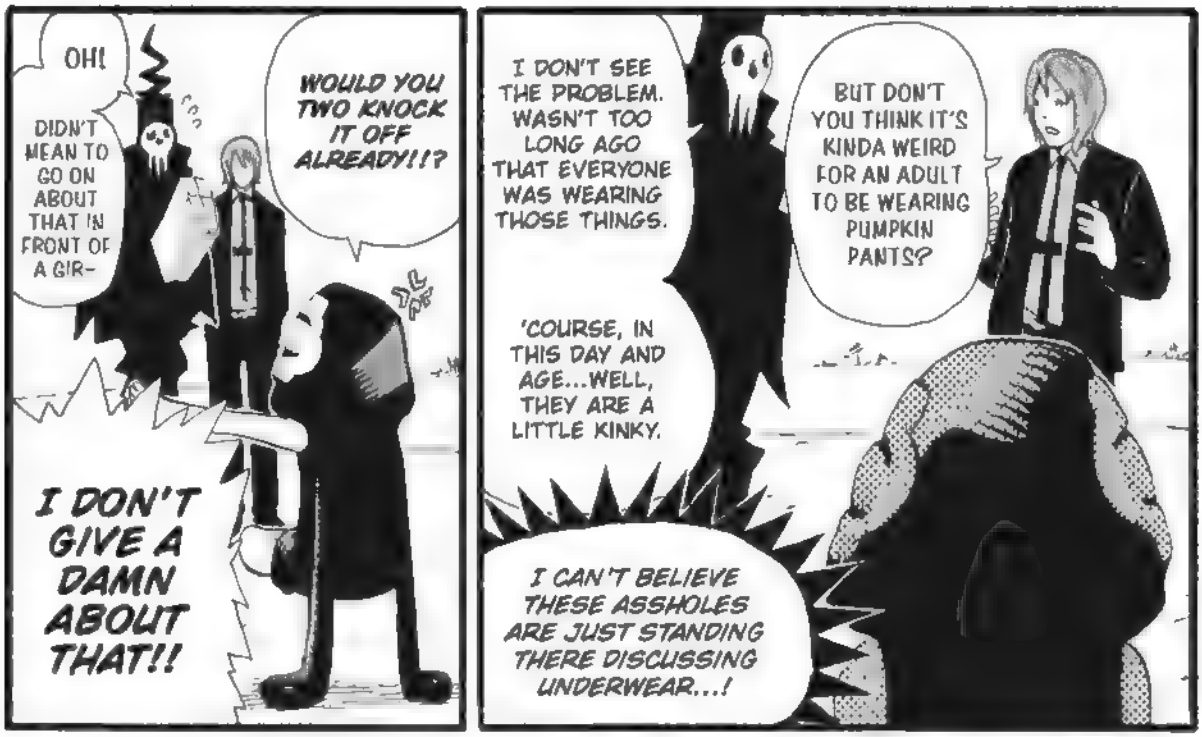
BURAAAN (DANGLE)
WHAT THE...? COME ON...! HE'S JUST TOYING WITH ME...I REALLY MISCALCULATED THIS ONE...
MY...MY PANTIES ...!
SO.
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A "DEAL"?


...
PETA (PLOP)

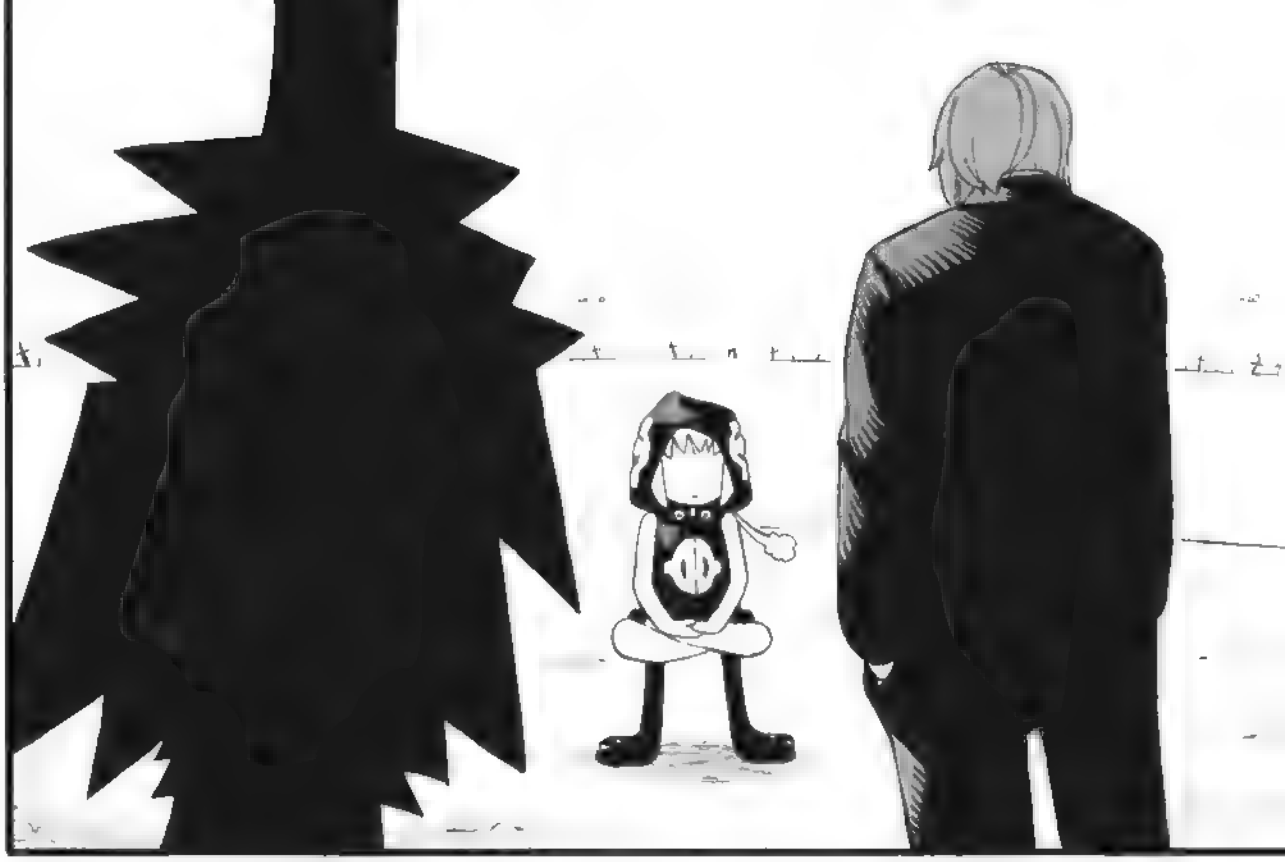
COULD WE PLEASE START WITH YOU PUTTING ME DOWN?
BUT MIS-CALCULATIONS ARE A FACT OF LIFE, I SUPPOSE... NO PLAN IS PERFECT.

ZABI (FWIP)
NOW THEN, SHALL WE BEGIN OUR DISCUSSION?
BUT IT WILL BE FINE... I JUST NEED TO DRAW THE CONVERSATION ALONG THE WAY I WANT IT TO GO.
BACHIN
BACHIN (SNAP)

THIS COULD TURN DOWNRIGHT SILLY...
.....
.....
MY LITTLE MAKA USED TO WEAR PUMPKIN PANTS WHEN SHE WAS THAT AGE...SHE WAS SO CUTE!
AHH, PUMPKIN PANTS...


OH!
DIDN'T MEAN TO GO ON ABOUT THAT IN FRONT OF A GIR-
WOULD YOU TWO KNOCK IT OFF ALREADY!!?
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT THAT!!
I DON'T SEE THE PROBLEM. WASN'T TOO LONG AGO THAT EVERYONE WAS WEARING THOSE THINGS.
'COURSE, IN THIS DAY AND AGE...WELL, THEY ARE A LITTLE KINKY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THESE ASSHOLES ARE JUST STANDING THERE DISCUSSING UNDERWEAR...!
BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT'S KINDA WEIRD FOR AN ADULT TO BE WEARING PUMPKIN PANTS?

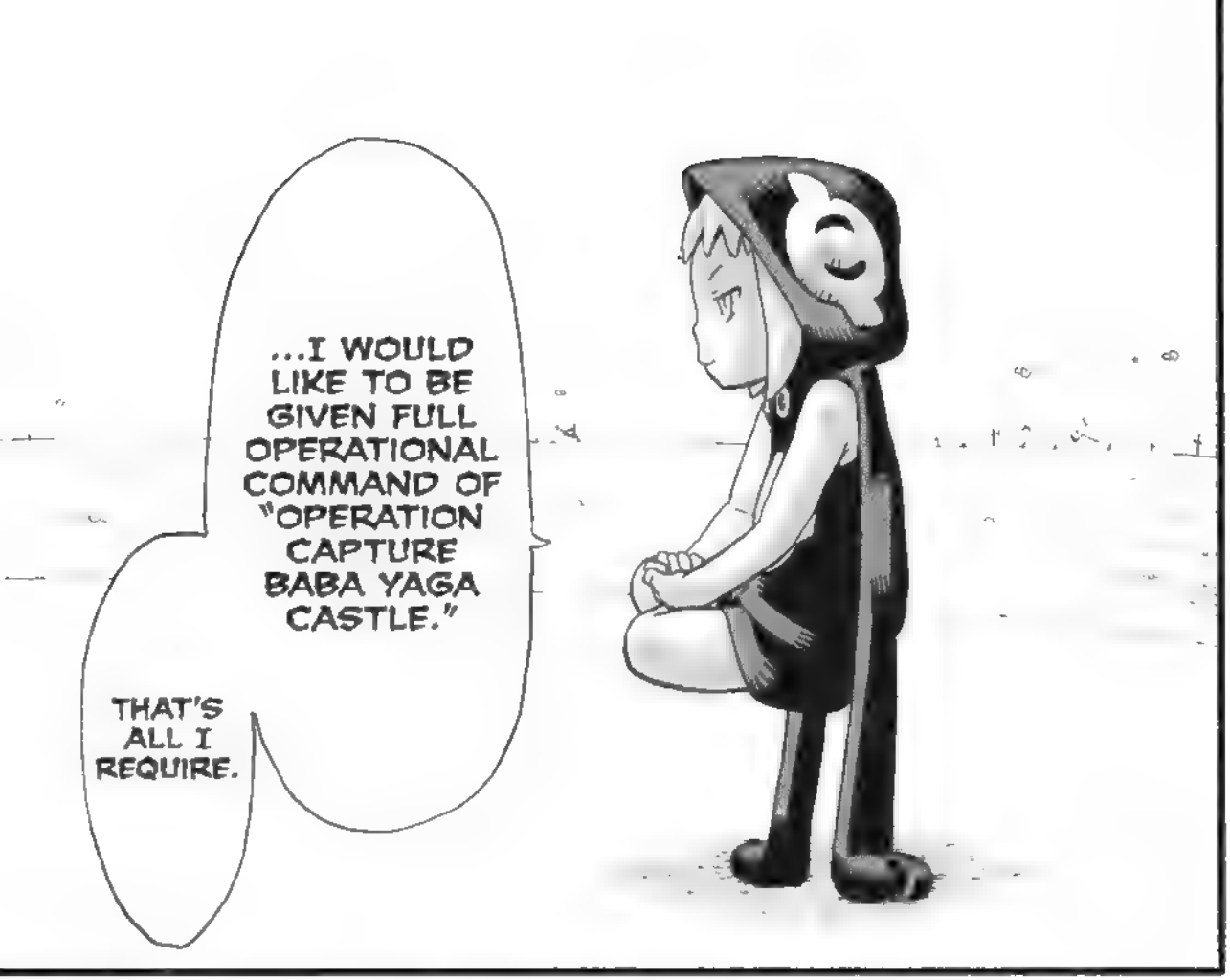
SFX: BUN (WAVE) BUN



THE TERMS I HAVE TO OFFER ARE NOT AT ALL BAD FOR YOU.
MAY I BEGIN, THEN?

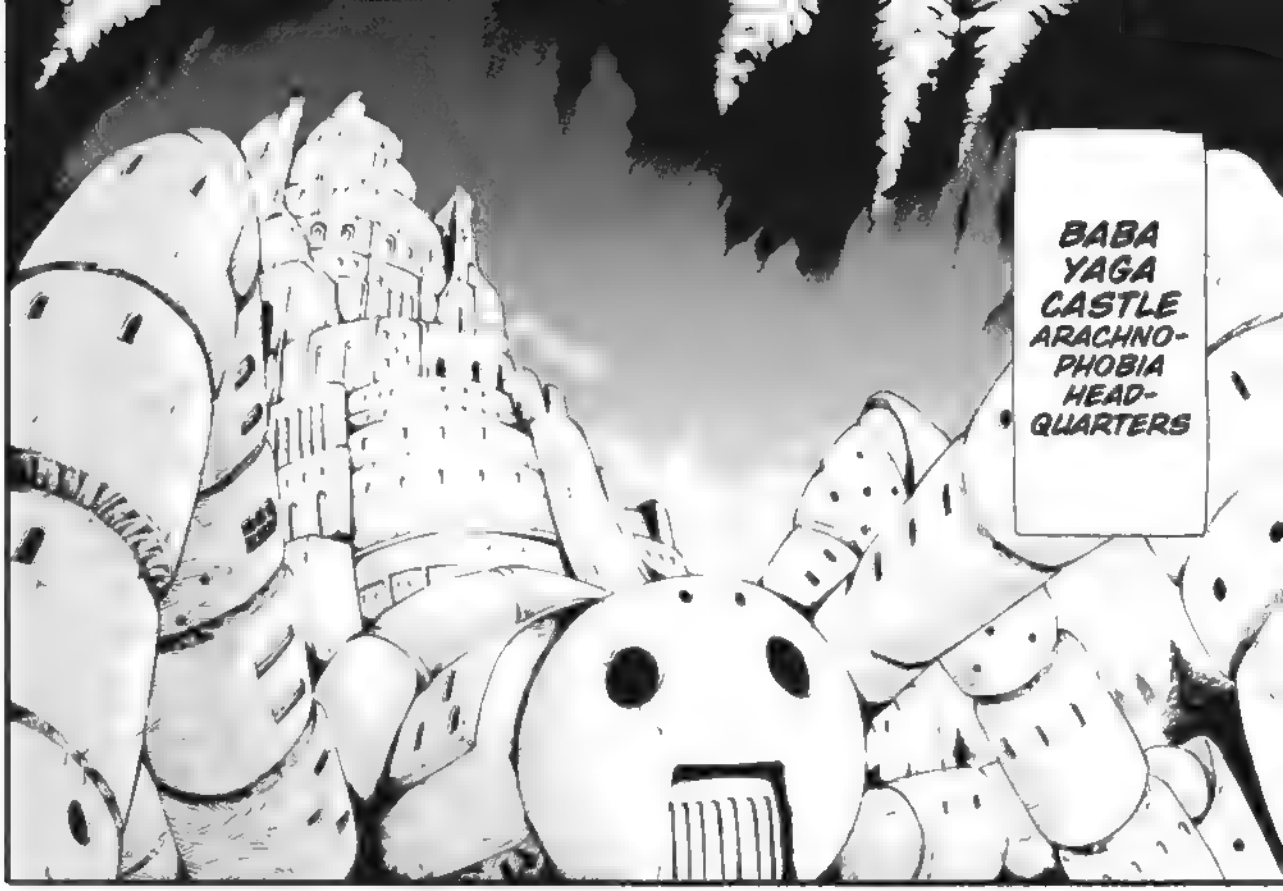
AND IN EXCHANGE ...
WHAT?

I WILL TELL YOU THE LOCATION OF BABA YAGA CASTLE, WHERE ARACHNOPHOBIA IS HEAD-QUARTERED.
I WILL ALSO PROVIDE YOU WITH CERTAIN INTELLIGENCE TO HELP YOU SUCCESSFULLY CAPTURE THE CASTLE.


...I WOULD LIKE TO BE GIVEN FULL OPERATIONAL COMMAND OF "OPERATION CAPTURE BABA YAGA CASTLE."
THAT'S ALL I REQUIRE.

...THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD TRUST YOU WITH IT!!
AN UTTERLY CRUCIAL OPERA-TION LIKE THIS...
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!! HOW DO YOU EXPECT US TO SWALLOW THOSE TERMS!!?

...THEN YOU CAN ALWAYS KEEP RIGHT ON DANCING TO ARACHNE'S TUNE. THE DECISION IS YOURS.
WELL, IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE TERMS...


BABA YAGA CASTLE
ARACHNO-PHOBIA HEAD-QUARTERS

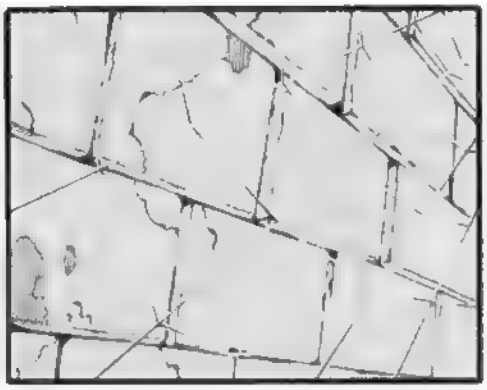
YOU'RE A RATHER LARGE ONE.
UH, YEP!!
SURE AM!!

YES, YES.
WELCOME BACK, MOSQUITO-SAMA.

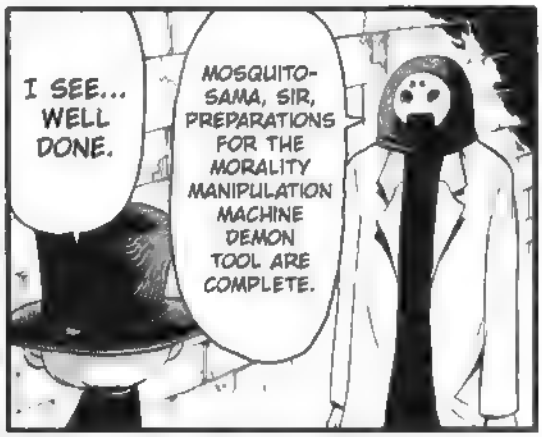
HRM.

HO-HO-HO... THE ARACH-NOPHOBIAN SOLDIERS ARE LOOKING QUITE PROMISING.

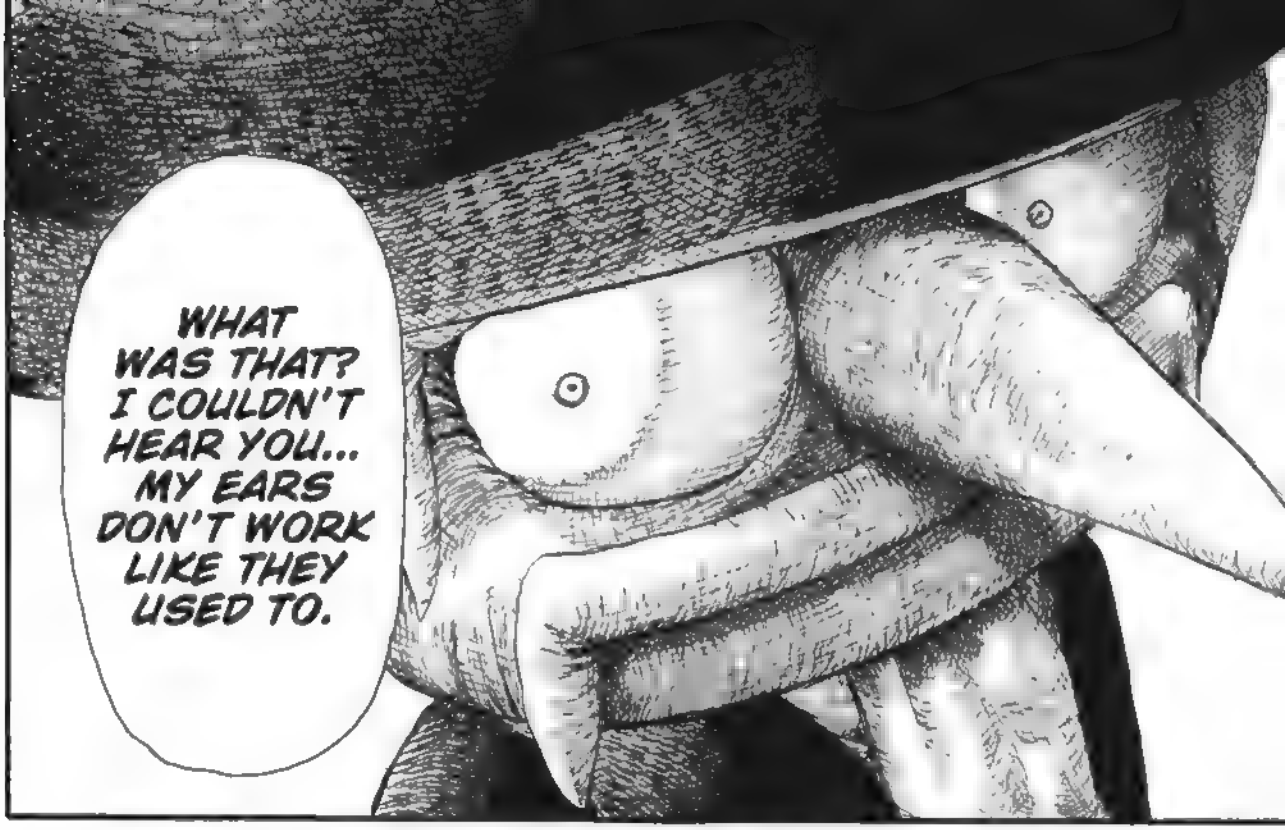
...
...



WHAT WAS THAT?
WHA ...?
COME, LADIES, COME.


I SEE... WELL DONE.
MOSQUITO-SAMA, SIR, PREPARATIONS FOR THE MORALITY MANIPULATION MACHINE DEMON TOOL ARE COMPLETE.

HEY, MISTER? SORRY, BUT WE'VE CHANGED OUR MINDS. WE DON'T WANNA DO THIS ANYMORE.
JACKIE... I THINK MAYBE WE SHOULD GO HOME AFTER ALL.


WHAT WAS THAT? I COULDN'T HEAR YOU... MY EARS DON'T WORK LIKE THEY USED TO.

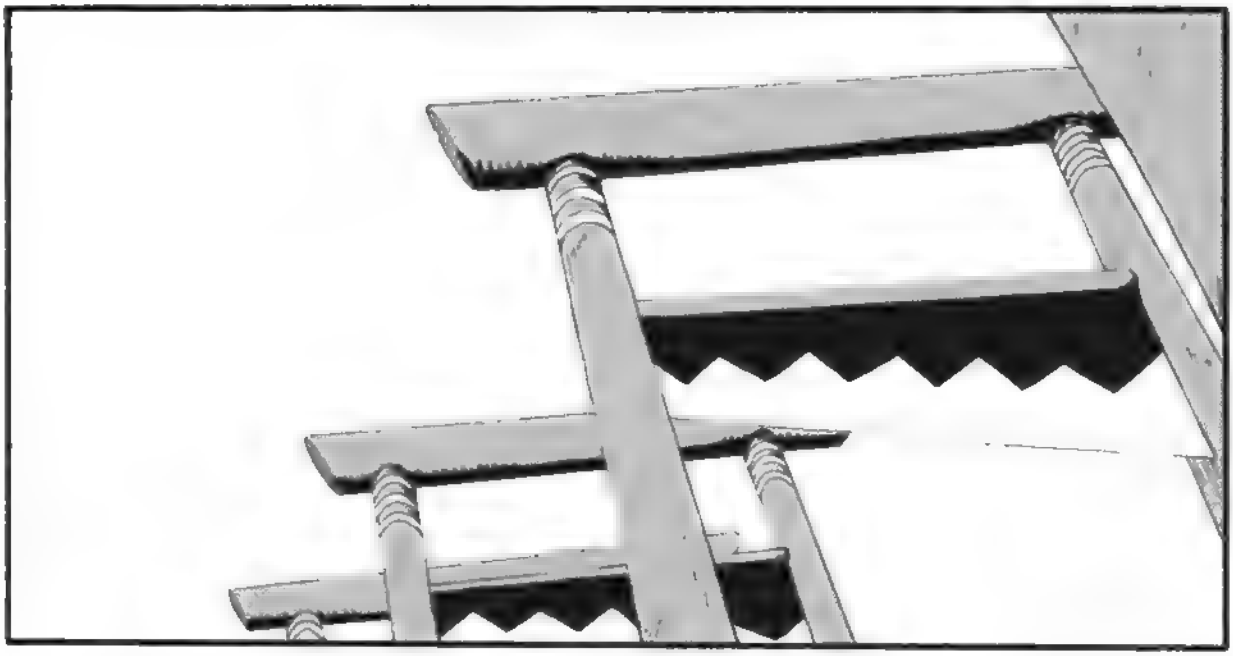
WHY, YOU ...!!

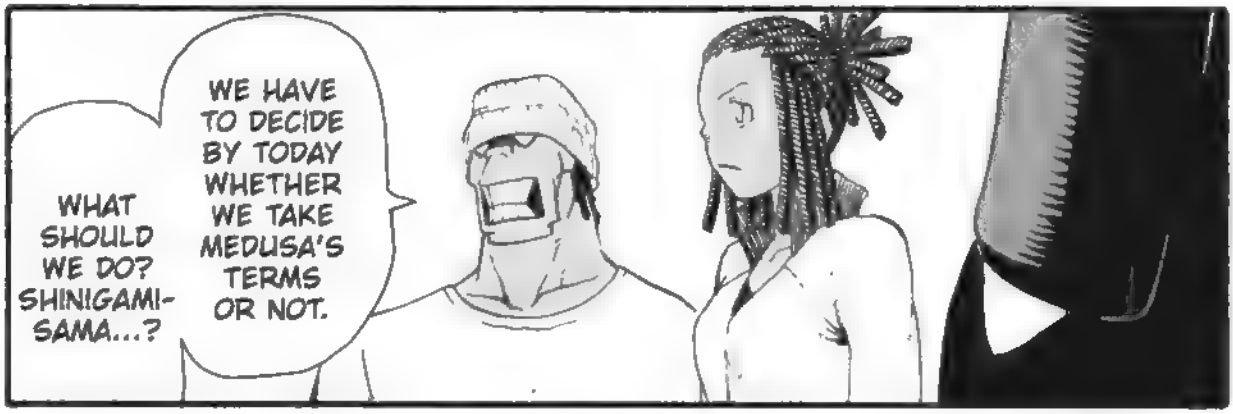
NO ...
!!
TAKE THEM AWAY.

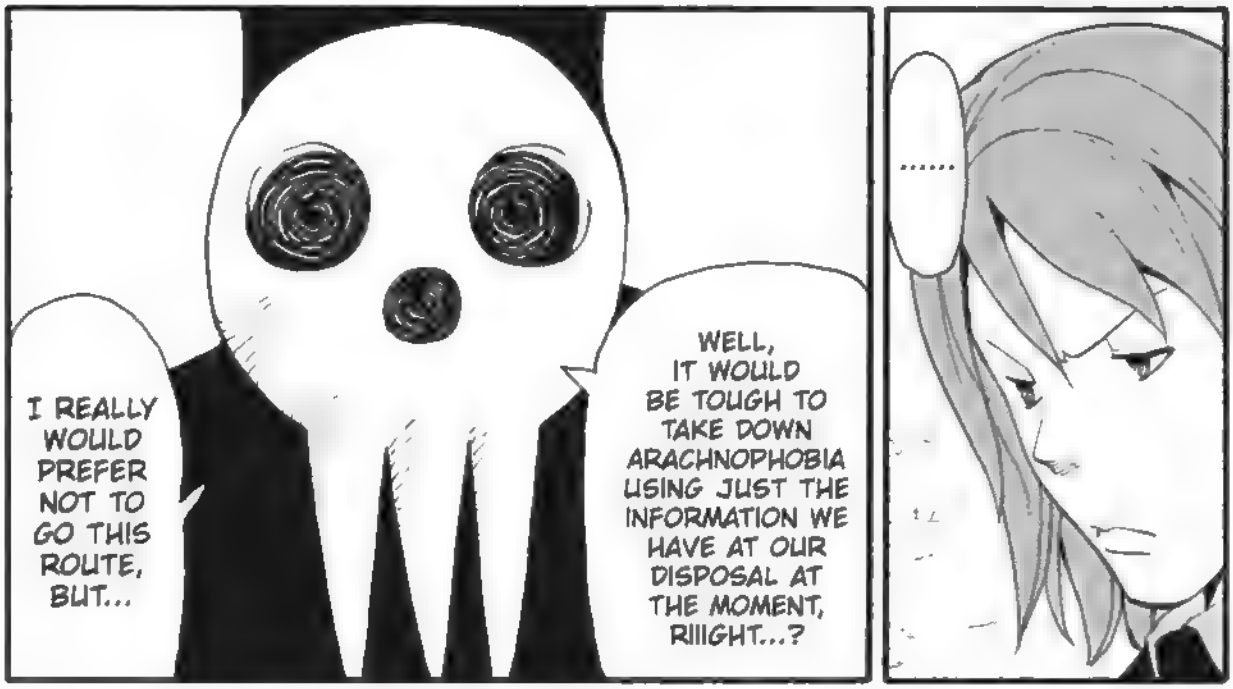
NO NEED TO BE IN SUCH A HURRY, MY DEAR.
AS SOON AS WE'VE FINISHED WITH MISS KIM OVER THERE, YOU'RE NEXT... JACQUELINE.
KIM!!
WE USE THE MORALITY MANIPULATION MACHINE TO LOWER YOUR MORAL STANDARDS.
IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
AFTER ALL, FEELINGS OF GUILT WILL ONLY MAKE THE WORK WE HAVE IN STORE THAT MUCH HARDER FOR YOU.

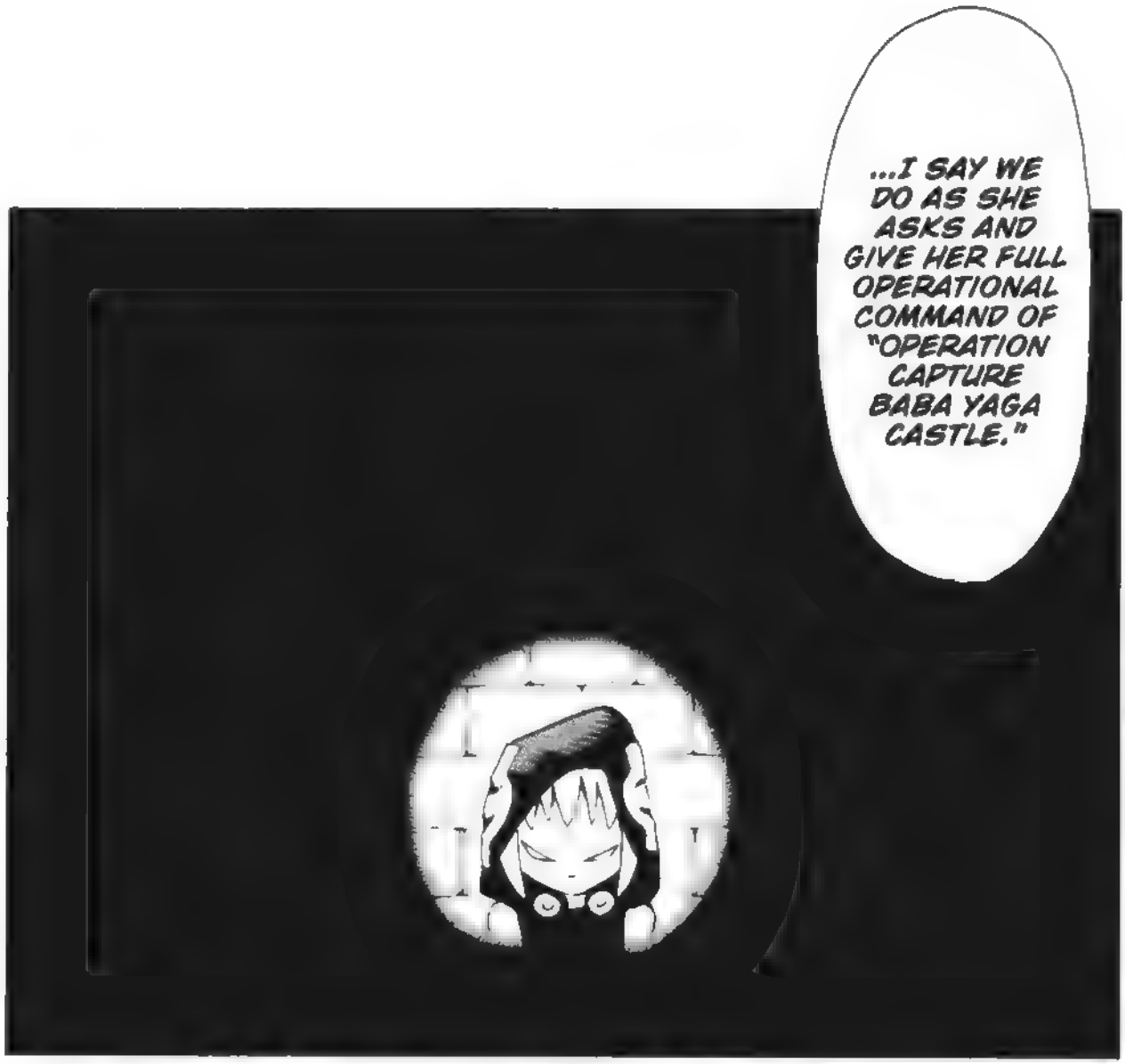
HOW IS ARACHNE-SAMA?
OW! OW! SHE'S TOO HOT...!
HOLD HER DOWN!
IT'S UNFORTUNATE FOR US THAT ARACHNE-SAMA TENDS TO BE SATISFIED BY THE MERE POSSESSION OF SUCH THINGS.
SO THE DAY HAS FINALLY COME WHEN WE ACTUALLY GET TO USE THE DEMON TOOL...
IT APPEARS THAT SHE HAS PROGRESSED TO THE THIRD STAGE, JUST AS PLANNED.
SHE CONTINUES TO WORK ON DEVELOPING HER MAGIC SKILLS...
NIKA CORIND

SOUL EATER




WHAT SHOULD WE DO? SHINIGAMI-SAMA...?
WE HAVE TO DECIDE BY TODAY WHETHER WE TAKE MEDUSA'S TERMS OR NOT.


I REALLY WOULD PREFER NOT TO GO THIS ROUTE, BUT...
WELL, IT WOULD BE TOUGH TO TAKE DOWN ARACHNOPHOBIA USING JUST THE INFORMATION WE HAVE AT OUR DISPOSAL AT THE MOMENT, RIIIGHT...?
.....



SOUL EATER

CHAPTER 46: OPERATION CAPTURE BABA YAGA CASTLE (PART 1)

TWO DAYS EARLIER ...
NO ONE BUT ME CAN MAKE THIS OPERATION HAPPEN.
NO... I WILL DEFINITELY BE ACCOMPANYING EVERYONE ELSE TO THE BATTLEFIELD.
AT BEST WE CAN GIVE YOU A REMOTE POST... SOMETHING APART FROM THE KEY PLAYERS...
THERE S JUST NO WAY WE CAN HAND FULL OPERATIONAL COMMAND OVER TO YOU YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE IS AN ATTEMPT TO DESTORY THIS POWERFUL ORGANIZATION, SO NATURALLY, YOU'RE PROBABLY ENVISIONING SOME KIND OF MASSIVE BATTLE.
BUT WHAT I HAVE IN MIND IS NOTHING SO HIGH-RISK.
ARACHNOPHOBIA AS LED BY ARACHNE...
...IS A VERY POWERFUL ORGANIZATION.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? WHY DON'T WE JUST HEAR THE DETAILS SO WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME PAGE?

IN SHORT, MY IDEA FOR "OPERATION CAPTURE BABA YAGA CASTLE" IS THIS:
WE GO IN WITH A SMALL FORCE.
THAT MEANS MUCH LESS RISK FOR YOU TO TAKE ON. EVEN IF THE OPERATION FAILS, YOUR COSTS ARE LOW. AM I RIGHT?
IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF NUMBERS.
OBVIOUSLY WHAT I DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH IS THE IDEA OF ENTRUSTING YOU WITH VALUABLE DWMA PERSONNEL.
SO WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE YOU? WHY CAN'T ANYONE ELSE LEAD THIS OPERATION? THAT'S WHAT I WANNA KNOW.
IT'S BECAUSE WE NEED TO AVOID DETECTION BY THE SENSOR NET ARACHNE'S PUT IN PLACE.
SEN-SOR NET?
THE AREA AROUND BABA YAGA CASTLE IS TEEMING WITH COUNTLESS SENSORS SPREAD OUT LIKE A VAST SPIDERWEB.
IF WE GET CAUGHT IN THAT WEB, ARACHNE WILL QUICKLY BE AWARE OF OUR MOVEMENTS.
OKAY, SO YOU WANT TO GO IN WITH A SMALL FORCE IN ORDER TO SLIP THROUGH THE WEB.
AND YOU'RE SAYING YOU CAN SLIP THROUGH UNDETECTED?

OKAY, ASSUMING THIS TEAM DOES MANAGE TO INFILTRATE BABA YAGA CASTLE, WHAT THEN? HOW DO YOU PLAN TO MOUNT AN OFFENSIVE WITH JUST A SMALL FORCE?
BUT THE WHOLE NET IS RECONFIGURED EVERY SEVERAL DAYS OR SO.
IF WE DRAG OUR FEET GETTING THIS OPERATION OFF THE GROUND, THE INFORMATION I HAVE WON'T BE GOOD ANYMORE.
YES.
AND THE SAME TEAM MEMBERS I HAD WITH ME BACK THEN HAVE ALREADY BEEN PLANTED UNDER DEEP COVER INSIDE BABA YAGA CASTLE.
GOING IN WITH SMALL NUMBERS ISN'T QUITE THE PROBLEM YOU THINK IT IS. I'M SURE YOU'D PROBABLY RATHER NOT REMEMBER THIS, BUT THINK BACK TO THE NIGHT OF THE DWMA ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION...THE ENTIRE SCHOOL WAS OVERWHELMED BY A FORCE OF JUST FOUR PEOPLE, INCLUDING MYSELF. WE HAD A LITTLE EXTRA HELP, OF COURSE, BUT ESSENTIALLY, THE FOUR OF US.
THEY'RE GOING TO BE A MAJOR TACTICAL ASSET FOR US IN THIS FIGHT.

I'LL LAY OUT THE SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE TEAM I WANT DWMA TO PROVIDE.
GOING IN WITH PEOPLE WHO OVERTHINK SITUATIONS COULD END UP HINDERING THE PROGRESS OF THE OPERATION...
SO I WANT THE TEAM TO BE COMPOSED MAINLY OF STUDENTS.

FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE NEED SOMEONE WHO EXCELS AT SOUL PERCEPTION.

NEXT WE NEED SOMEONE WHO IS CAPABLE OF MAKING CLEAR-HEADED DECISIONS AT ALL TIMES AND PROVIDING A SENSE OF CALM TO THE TEAM.

AND FINALLY WE NEED SOMEONE WHO'S GOT SHEER BRUTE STRENGTH...

OF THE STUDENTS I'M FAMILIAR WITH, I THINK BLACK☆STAR-KUN WOULD DO NICELY FOR THAT ONE.

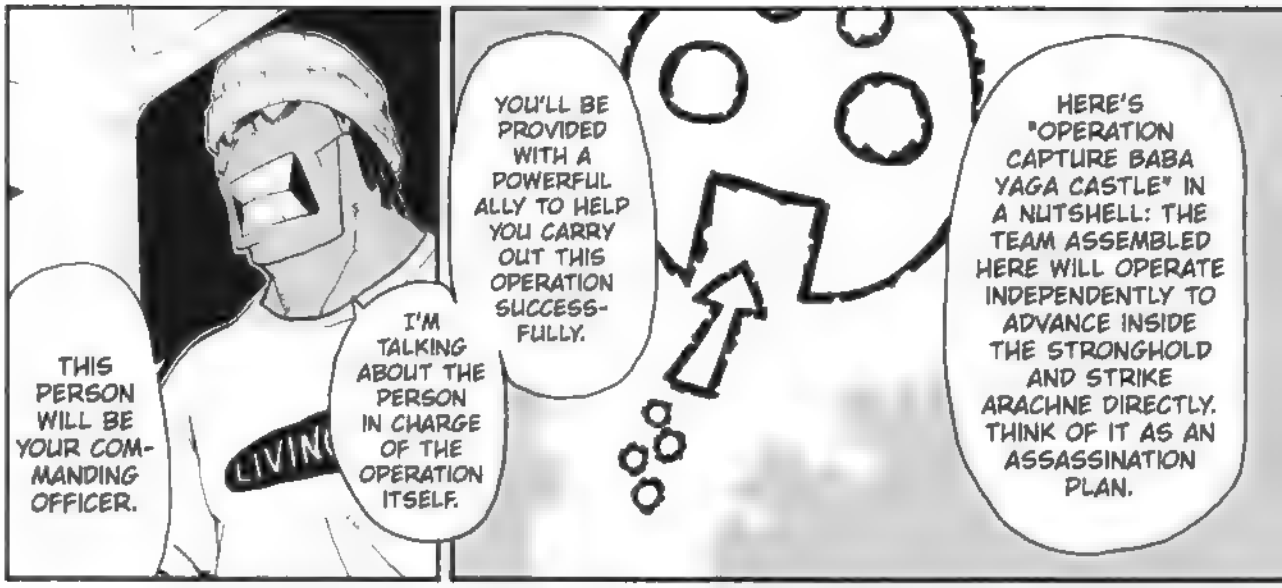
WHAT ARE YOU, CRAZY?
YOU'RE SERIOUSLY ASKING US TO JUST HAND A BUNCH OF KIDS OVER TO YOU...?
EVEN IF I'M NOT THE ONE COMMANDING THEM, YOU'LL STILL NEED THE STUDENTS' HELP IN ANY FIGHT AGAINST ARACHNOPHOBIA.
AM I WRONG?
...

REMEMBER, I WORKED HERE AT DWMA FOR A WHILE, SO I DO UNDERSTAND YOUR STRONG SENSE OF HUMANITY...AND YOUR LOYALTY TO SHINIGAMI-SAMA.
I ASSURE YOU THAT IN CARRYING OUT THIS OPERATION, I'LL MAKE THE PROTECTION OF FELLOW TEAM MEMBERS THE FIRST PRIORITY.
THE INFORMATION I HAVE WILL BE GOOD FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER FIVE DAYS... WHICH MEANS I'D LIKE AN ANSWER FROM YOU WITHIN TWO DAYS AS TO WHETHER OR NOT YOU'LL ACCEPT MY TERMS.
CAN YOU DO THAT?

PRESENT DAY... NAKATSU-KASA RESIDENCE, JAPAN...
Heyyy! How're ya doin', Tsubaki-chan? How's Black☆ Star?
OH, WE'VE BEEN TAKING WALKS TOGETHER AND SUCH... JUST TAKING IT EASY FOR NOW.
I'M REALLY HOPING THIS TIME WILL HELP HIM TOWARD FIGURING OUT A WAY TO CONTROL UNCANNY SWORD, BUT...

MY MOM AND DAD BOTH FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM FROM THE START.
AND I REALLY BELIEVE IN HIM MYSELF.
OH, BLACK☆STAR WILL FIND A WAY... I KNOW HE CAN DO IT.
WELL...NO HALF-HEARTED SOUL'S GONNA BE ABLE TO PERSUADE THAT INFAMOUS WILL OF NAKATSUKASA, EHHH?
...RIGHT NOW I JUST DON'T KNOW IF...
I KNOW WHAT AN IMPORTANT OPERATION THIS IS, AND I REALLY, REALLY WANT TO COME BACK AND HELP OUT, BUT...
OF COURSE, THERE'S REALLY NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT ONE.
AND IT SOUNDS LIKE BLACK☆STAR'S DOING JUST GREAT TOO.
AH, GOOD, GOOD! ♪ I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT A RELIEF IT IS TO SEE THAT LOVELY SMILE ON YOUR FACE, TSUBAKI-CHAN.
I PROMISE I'LL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO GET US READY TO COME BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
WE'LL TRY AND FIND SOME WAY TO HELP OUT WITH THE OPERATION.
I'M SO SORRY TO LET YOU DOWN LIKE THIS.
NO, NO, NO...DON'T EVEN WORRY ABOUT IT.
AND PLEASE, LET'S KEEP BLACK☆STAR IN THE DARK ON THIS. IF YOU TELL HIM, I'M SURE HE'LL JUST WANNA RUSH RIGHT ON BACK BEFORE HE'S READY.

FINALLY! NOW IT'S OUR TURN TO TAKE IT TO THEM AND KICK SOME ARACHNO-PHOBIAN ASS!
WE FOUND THE LOCATION OF ARACH-NOPHOBIA'S HEAD-QUARTERS!?
...BUT JUST SETTLE DOWN AND HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.
LIVING DEAD
I'M SURE SOME OF YOU ARE PROBABLY A LITTLE SURPRISED AT BEING CALLED IN LIKE THIS...
...THE KEY PLAYERS WILL BE THOSE OF YOU SITTING HERE.
IN THE OPERATION TO CAPTURE BABA YAGA CASTLE, ARACHNO-PHOBIA'S HOME BASE...

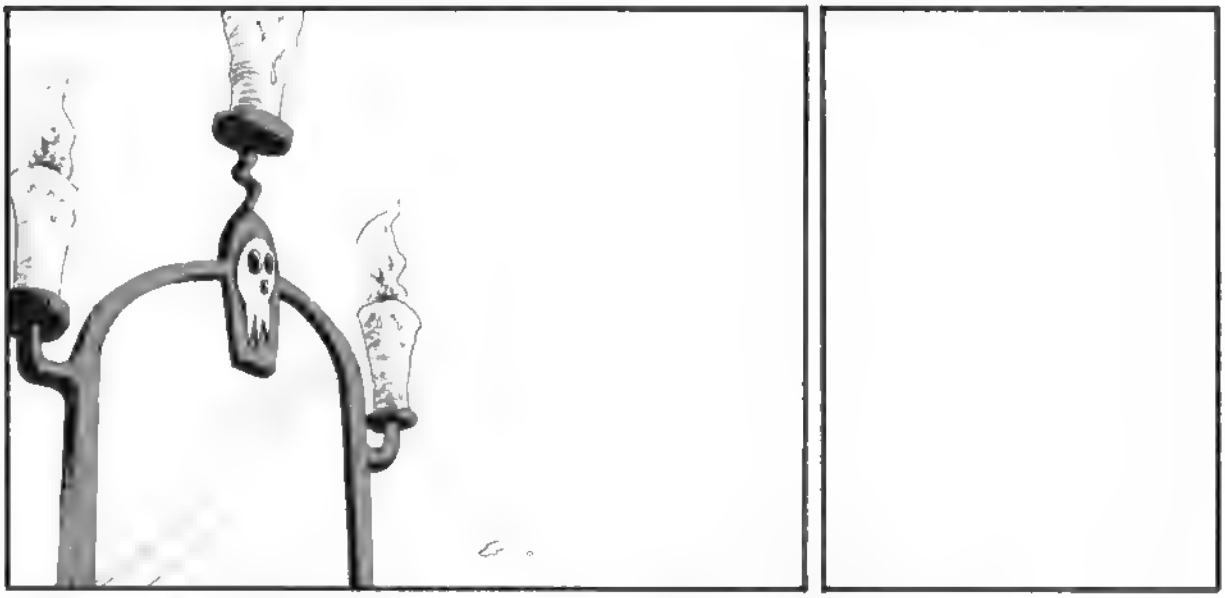

THIS PERSON WILL BE YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER.
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE OPERATION ITSELF.
YOU'LL BE PROVIDED WITH A POWERFUL ALLY TO HELP YOU CARRY OUT THIS OPERATION SUCCESSFULLY.
HERE'S "OPERATION CAPTURE BABA YAGA CASTLE" IN A NUTSHELL: THE TEAM ASSEMBLED HERE WILL OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY TO ADVANCE INSIDE THE STRONGHOLD AND STRIKE ARACHNE DIRECTLY. THINK OF IT AS AN ASSASSINATION PLAN.

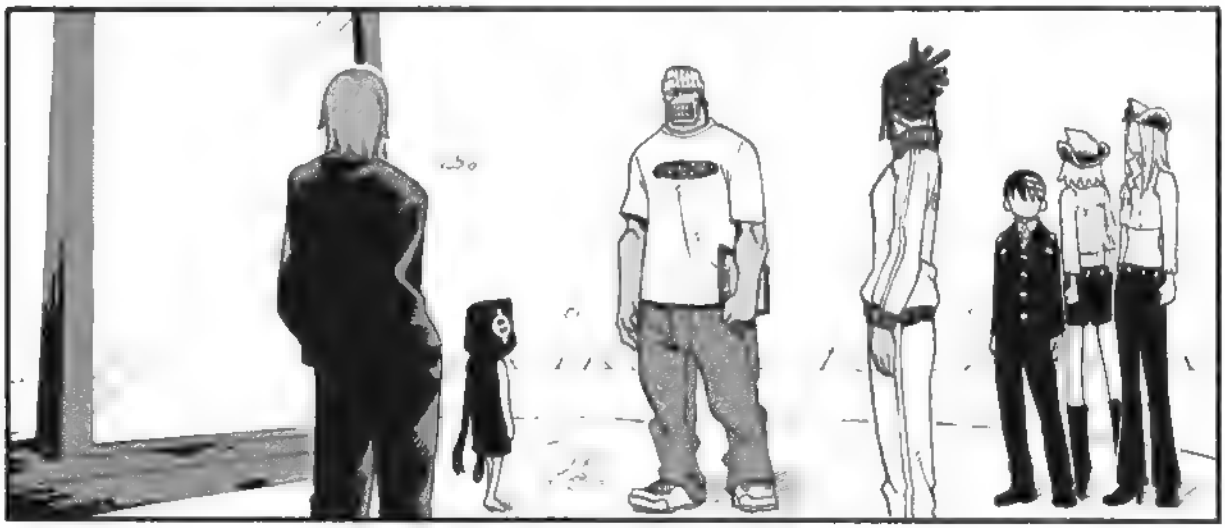
?
SURELY THEY DON'T MEAN...
THE ANONYMOUS TIP ABOUT THE THREE WITCHES...
THE TIMING OF THIS OPERATION...

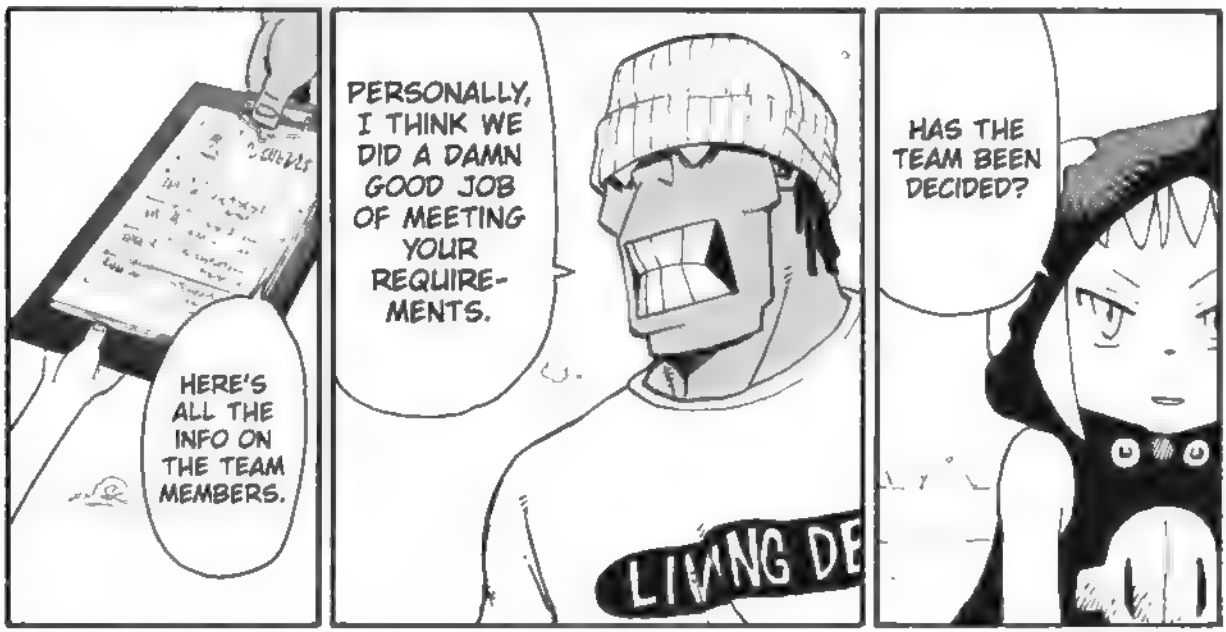
!!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!?
KNOWING YOU GUYS... I'M SURE YOU ALL PROBABLY HEARD ABOUT WHO SUDDENLY TURNED HERSELF IN TO DWMA THREE DAYS AGO. WELL...
...YOUR COMMANDER WILL BE THE WITCH MEDUSA.
LIVING DEAD

HEY, IF YOU WANT TO BOW OUT, THAT'S YOUR CHOICE. WE GOT OTHER CANDIDATES ON THE LIST...
WAIT A MINUTE, SOUL.
HELL YEAH, I WANNA BOW OUT...NO THANKS.
WHAT, ARE WE S'POSED TO JUST WELCOME THIS WITCH WITH OPEN ARMS!? THE SAME WITCH WHO RESURRECTED THE KISHIN AND DROVE AWAY KIM...!? NO WAY!!
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!! HOW DO YOU EXPECT US TO GO ALONG WITH THIS!!?
OX, WHAT ARE YOU AND HARVAR GONNA DO?
.....
THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO GET CLOSE TO MEDUSA. WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND OUT WHERE CRONA IS.
EXACTLY. DOESN'T THAT WHET YOUR INTEREST?
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR DRIVING AWAY KIM, MAN.
IF THESE ARE OUR ORDERS, I INTEND TO FOLLOW THEM.
THAT'S WHY WE'VE BEEN CHOSEN.
CLEARLY THEY NEED OUR HELP FOR THIS OPERATION TO SUCCEED.

FOLLOWING ORDERS WHILE CALMLY MAINTAINING A HEALTHY SKEPTICISM... OX-KUN SHOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT THIS OPERATION WITH JUST THE RIGHT BALANCE OF MIND.
IF MEDUSA MAKES ONE WRONG MOVE, I'LL GUT HER WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT!!
.....
BUT THE THING IS, KILIK, IN ORDER TO DO THAT, I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP.
ARE YOU IN OR OUT...?
I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO ASK YOU ALL THIS, BUT I'M GONNA NEED AN ANSWER RIGHT NOW.



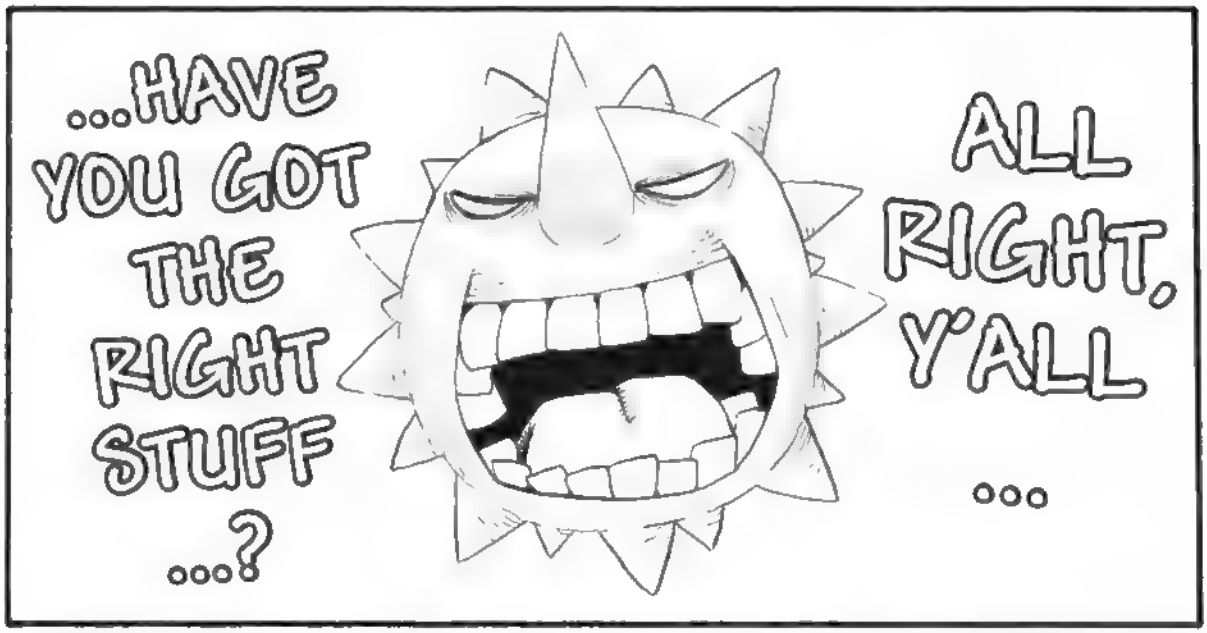


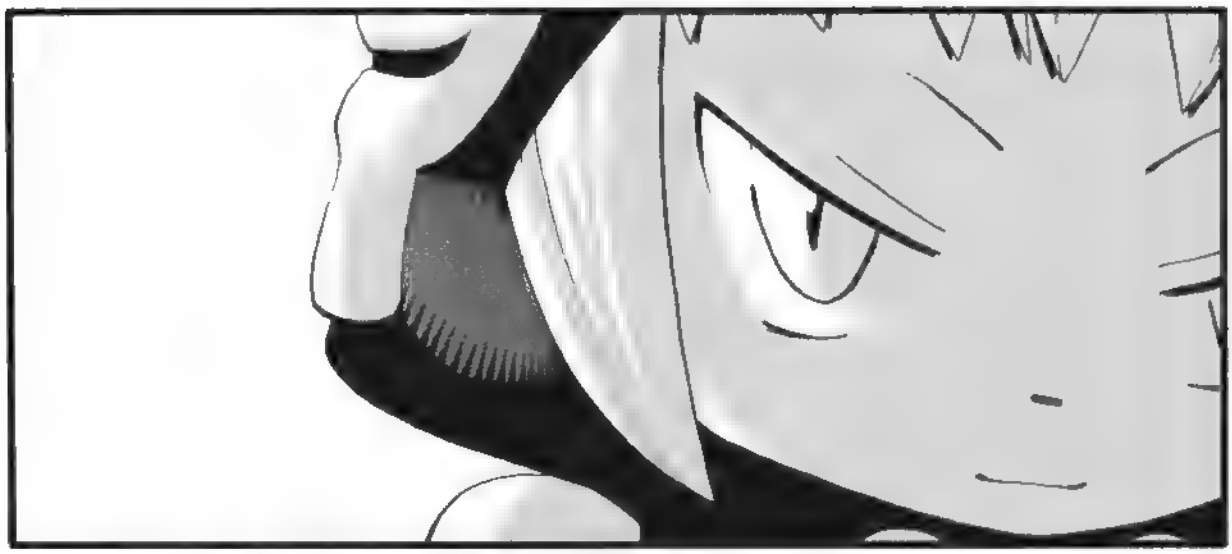

HERE'S ALL THE INFO ON THE TEAM MEMBERS.
PERSONALLY, I THINK WE DID A DAMN GOOD JOB OF MEETING YOUR REQUIRE-MENTS.
LIVING DE
HAS THE TEAM BEEN DECIDED?

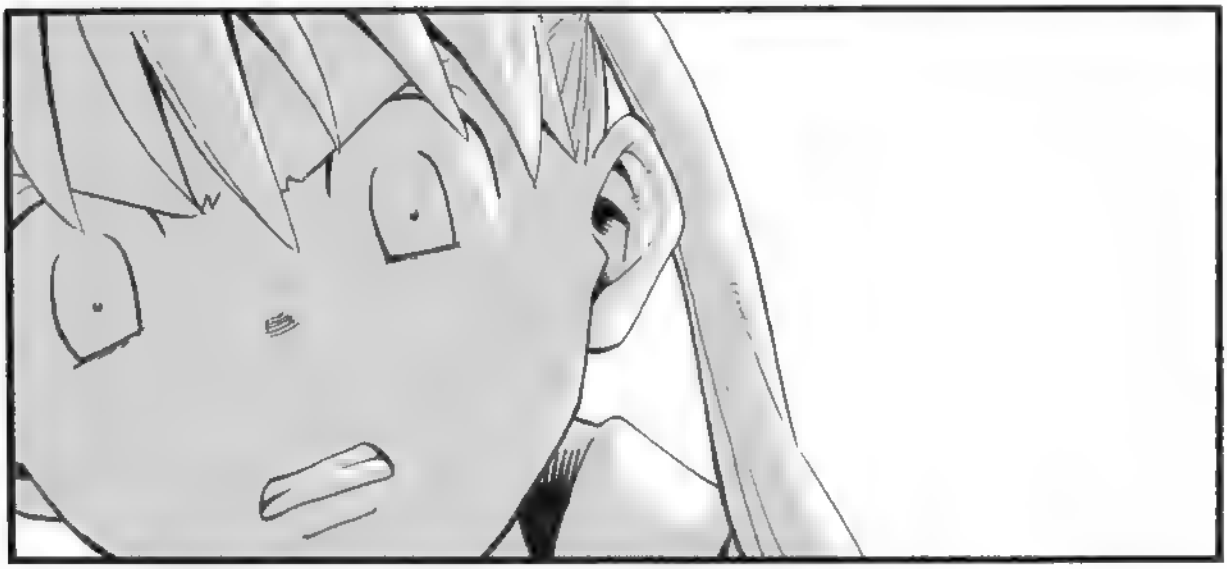
OX
HARVAR
MAKA
SOUL
KILIK
THUNDER
FIRE

?
WE HAVE A COUPLE CONDITIONS OF OUR OWN.
LIVING DEAD
.....
IN ADDITION, WE'RE POSTING ONE OF DEATH'S WEAPONS BY THE NAME OF YUMI AZUSA JUST OUTSIDE THE RANGE OF THE SENSOR ARRAY.
SHE'LL BE IN COMMAND OF A SQUAD THAT WILL ALSO BE MONITORING YOU. IF THEY DETECT ANYTHING SINISTER IN YOUR ACTIONS, THEY'LL BE AUTHORIZED TO TAKE YOU OUT WITH SNIPER FIRE.
DO YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEM WITH THAT?
WE'VE CALLED IN DEATH THE KID...
...ALONG WITH ELIZABETH THOMPSON AND PATRICIA THOMPSON.
THESE THREE ARE GOING TO ACCOMPANY THE TEAM SPECIFICALLY IN ORDER TO MONITOR YOU. BUT I THINK YOU'LL FIND THEM MORE THAN CAPABLE IN A FIGHT.
NO...
I EXPECTED AS MUCH.

AT 6:00 A.M. TOMORROW... THE OPERATION'S A GO!!
OOOKAY, THEN...!


...HAVE YOU GOT THE RIGHT STUFF ...?
ALL RIGHT, Y'ALL ...

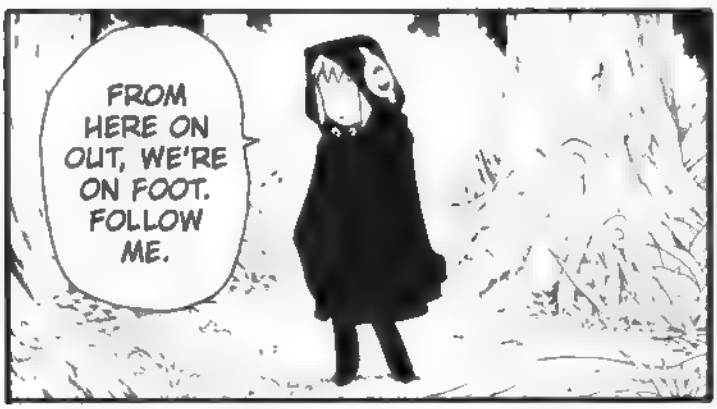




BABA YAGA CASTLE OPERA-TIONAL TEAM...
...HEAD OUT!!

REMEMBER... WE HAVE A SQUAD ON STANDBY, READY TO ATTACK IN CASE ANY-THING GOES WRONG.

AMAZON RIVER BASIN, SOUTH AMERICA


FROM HERE ON OUT, WE'RE ON FOOT. FOLLOW ME.

...

JUNGLE, HUH? THIS IS GONNA BE ROUGH GOING...

THAT'S HOW WE MOVE THROUGH

SUPA (SLICE)
PA

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT... THAT WE'RE MEETING AGAIN UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES LIKE THIS.

I WANNA KICK THE SHIT OUTTA YOU, BUT I CAN'T!!
A WITCH BITCH LIKE YOU, MEDUSA ...
SUSÁ (CLENCH)
?
STOP!

YOUR SOUL PERCEPTION ABILITY IS SOMETHING WE WITCHES DON'T HAVE.
I'M REALLY COUNTING ON YOU TO COME THROUGH FOR US.

I KNOW THIS MUST BE HARD FOR YOU, BUT I NEED EACH OF YOU TO FOLLOW MY ORDERS. IF YOU DON'T, YOU COULD WIND UP GETTING CAUGHT IN ONE OF ARACHNE'S SENSOR THREADS AND POSSIBLY EVEN LOSE YOUR LIFE.
I INTEND TO USE EVERY BIT OF MAGIC POWER AT MY DISPOSAL TO PROTECT YOUR LIVES.
YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU THIS, BUT I'M SERIOUS ABOUT WINNING THIS BATTLE.
...SERI-OUSLY?
DON'T MOVE. SOME OF ARACHNE'S SENSOR THREADS ARE RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

EVERY STUDENT HERE WAS CHOSEN SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE WE CAN DO THAT. SO YOU CAN REST EASY ON THAT COUNT.

...ALL RIGHT.
ALL RIGHT, THEN. FOLLOW ME IN SINGLE FILE AND REFRAIN FROM MAKING ANY UNNECESSARY MOVEMENTS.

BI (FWIP)
MAYBE IT'S A TRAP SET BY ARACHNE.
JUST DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID, PATTY.
SIR! YES, SIR!
WHAT IS THIS ...?
...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, FIRE, THUNDER ...?
WAAA-AAAH ...!!
HICC... HICC...
UUH... UUH...
IT'S 'COS NATURE ITSELF IS CRYING.
THIS WAS CAUSED BY ARACHNO-PHOBIA'S DEMON TOOL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.
THE WHOLE RIVER IS POLLUTED WITH MAGIC.
I DON'T THINK THERE WOULD BE ANY OTHER WAY TO DESCRIBE IT.
...I'M SURE IT WOULD SOUND JUST LIKE CHILDREN CRYING OUT TO THEIR PARENTS ...
IF WE COULD HEAR THOSE CRIES OUR-SELVES ...
FIRE AND THUNDER ARE EARTH SHAMANS.
THEY'RE PROBABLY HEARING NATURE'S CRIES OF ANGUISH DIRECTLY.

OH, THAT'S TOUCHING.
THIS FROM THE ONE WHO SCREWED THE WHOLE WORLD OVER. WHERE DO YOU GET OFF PLAYING ALL HIGH-AND-MIGHTY, HUH?
HOW DO YOU HAVE NO COMPASSION...? HOW CAN A PERSON BE LIKE THAT, HUH!?
BUKU
BUKU (BLUB)
...
WHAT IS THAT?
MAKA!
I'M ON IT!
BASHA
BASHA (SPLASH)
THE SOUL... IT'S NOT HUMAN.
WHAT IS THIS ...!?
IT'S BIG... VERY BIG...
...AND IT'S COMING!!

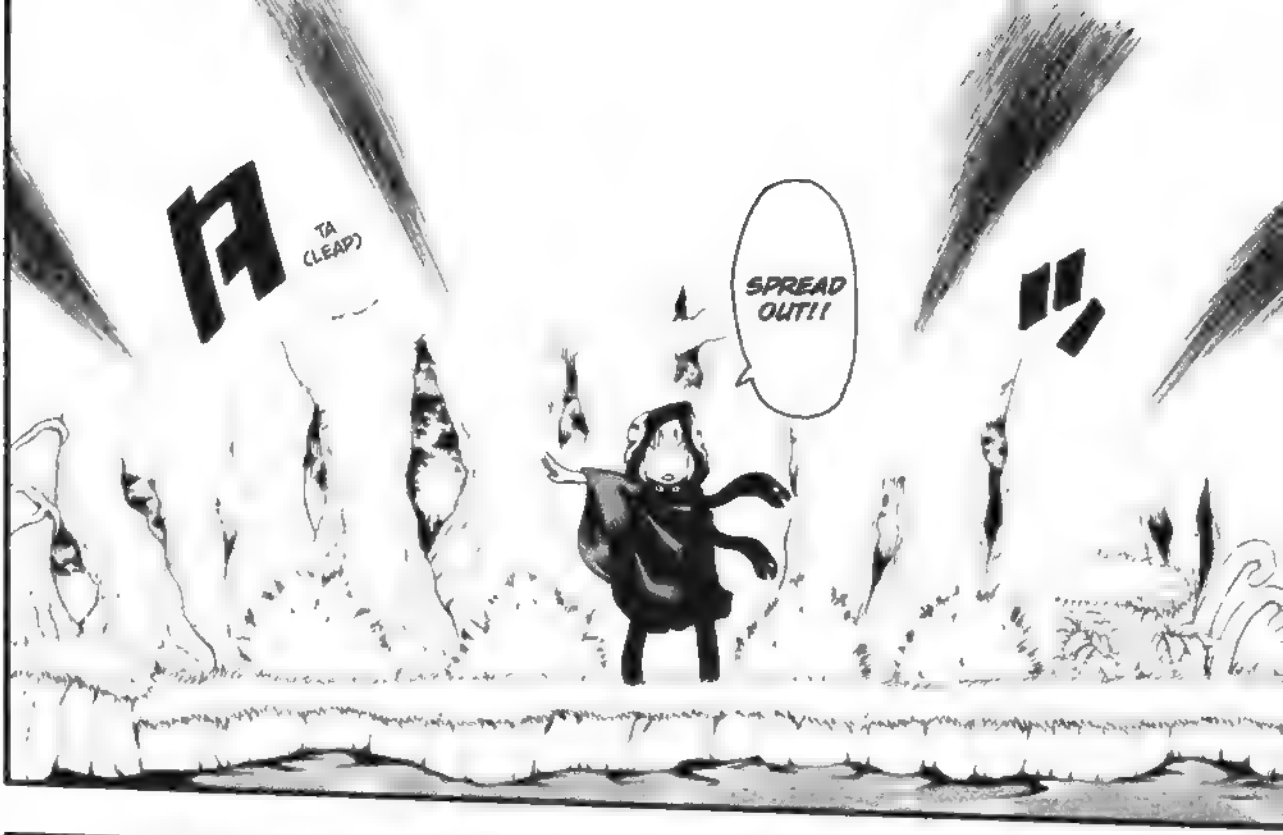
WHA...

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT ...!!?

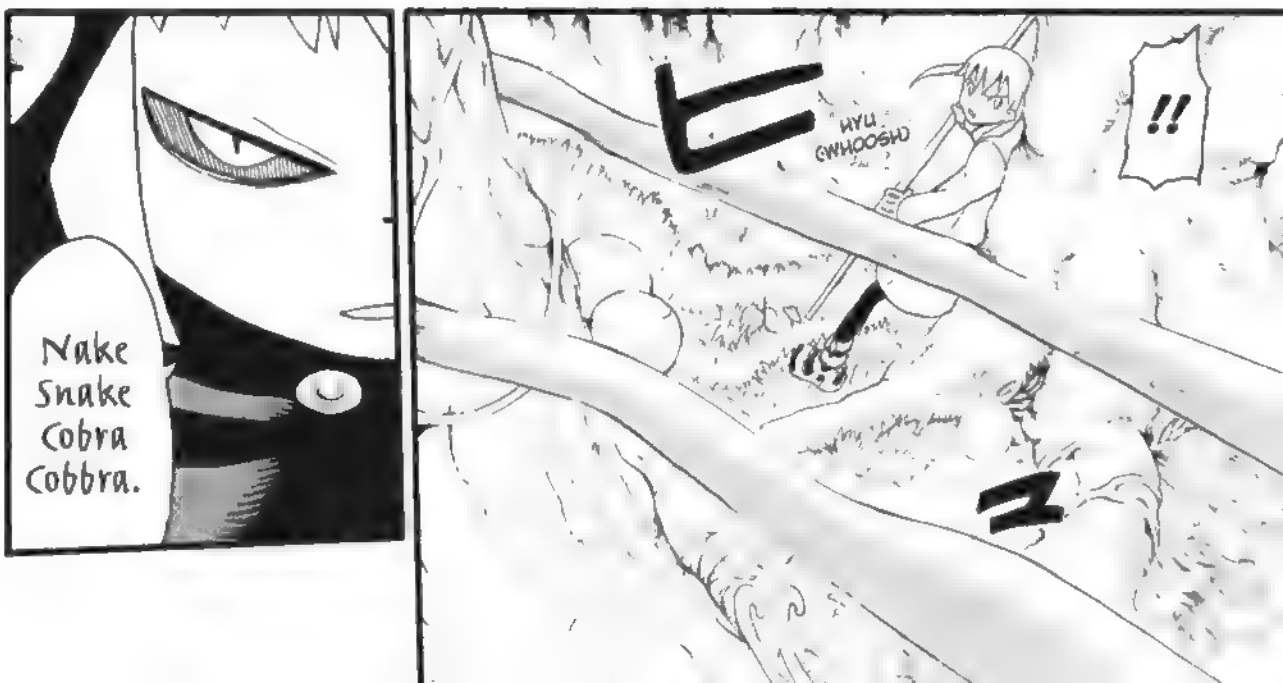
THE CREATURES THAT LIVE IN THIS RIVER HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE MAGIC POLLUTION. IT'S TURNED THEM INTO MONSTERS.

SOUL! TRANS-FORM!!

R GHT.


TA
(LEAP)
SPREAD OUT!!

BI
(ZIP)
KA
(THNK)
KA


Nake Snake Cobra Cobbra.
HYU
(WHOOSH)
!!

VAA (VWOOSH)
VECTOR ARROW !!
KURU (WHIRL)
BO (SHNK)
BO
BO
ZUDA (SLICE)
ALL RIGHT, HARVAR-KUN! LET'S USE SOME LIGHTNING TO ROAST THIS SQUID ON A STICK!
FUON
FUON (FWOOP)
OX-KUN!!
...

LIGHT-
NING
KING
QUAKE
!!!
DON
(BOOM)

ピキス
PIKISU
(PRICKLE)

NICE
ONE,
OX!!
I
GUESS
THAT
DID
IT...?

BE
CARE-
FUL!
NO,
HE'S
STILL
THERE!!

!?
VECTOR PLATE.
スイン
SUIN (SHWEEM)
BASHA- (SPLASH)
KUH!
BYUN (SWING)
WHOA!
WHAT THE HECK !?
DAN
DAN
DAN (BLAM)
KIN (PING)
KYUN
KYUN (WHIZ)
OH... THANK YOU!
ZA (SKID)
ZA
...
IT'S A MAGIC PLANE...IT SENDS WHATEVER'S ON IT IN THE DIRECTION OF THE ARROW.

BUT HOW...?
NO EFFECT!? NEITHER OX'S LIGHTNING NOR KID'S BULLETS...!? WHAT IS THAT THING?
THE MONSTER'S SKIN IS COATED WITH MAGIC...THAT MAKES IT STRONGER.
WE'VE GOT TO PEEL THAT SKIN OFF.
I CAN SHOOT IT WITH AN ARROW AND USE MAGIC TO BREAK DOWN THE COATING IN THE SPOT WHERE THE ARROW STABS.
THEN WE JUST NEED TO LAND A FOLLOW-UP HIT IN THE SAME SPOT.
WHAT?
Nake Snake Cobra Cobbra.
AS FOR THE FOLLOW-UP HIT...KILIK, I'M LEAVING THAT ONE TO YOU.
COME OVER HERE.
WHAT THE...? WHAT'S THIS?
MAGIC... IT DOUBLES YOUR POWER WHEN YOU EXERT FORCE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE ARROWS.
WHOA ...
!!
BO
VECTOR BOOST!
BO (BOOM)

THE REST OF YOU, BACK US UP!
HERE GOES ...
VECTOR ARROW!!
HWUH!

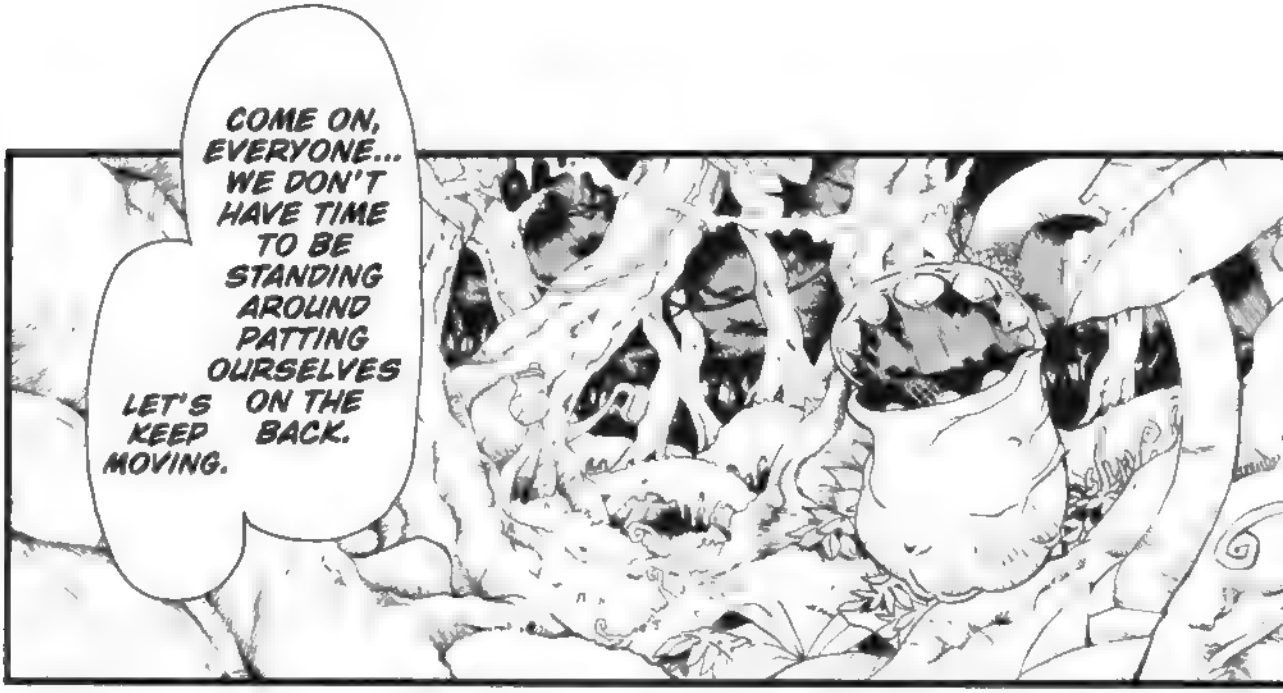
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO (THINK)
キュ
KYUUUUU (SCREEE)
DE-COM-POSE.
ANA-LYZE.
A HOLE OPENED UP!?
PAKA (SPLIT)

POT OF FIRE!!
TA (LEAP)
NOW!!
SOUL RESO-NANCE !!!

TRIPLE F!!!
(FLAME FLINT FIST)
HOO AH!!!!

ZUN
(SHOOM)
!!
VEC-
TOR
PLATE.
SUTA
(LAND)

WHOA ...
THAT WITCH'S MAGIC POWER IS SOME DEADLY SHIT...


COME ON, EVERYONE... WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE STANDING AROUND PATTING OURSELVES ON THE BACK.
LET'S KEEP MOVING.

ZA
CAPPEARO

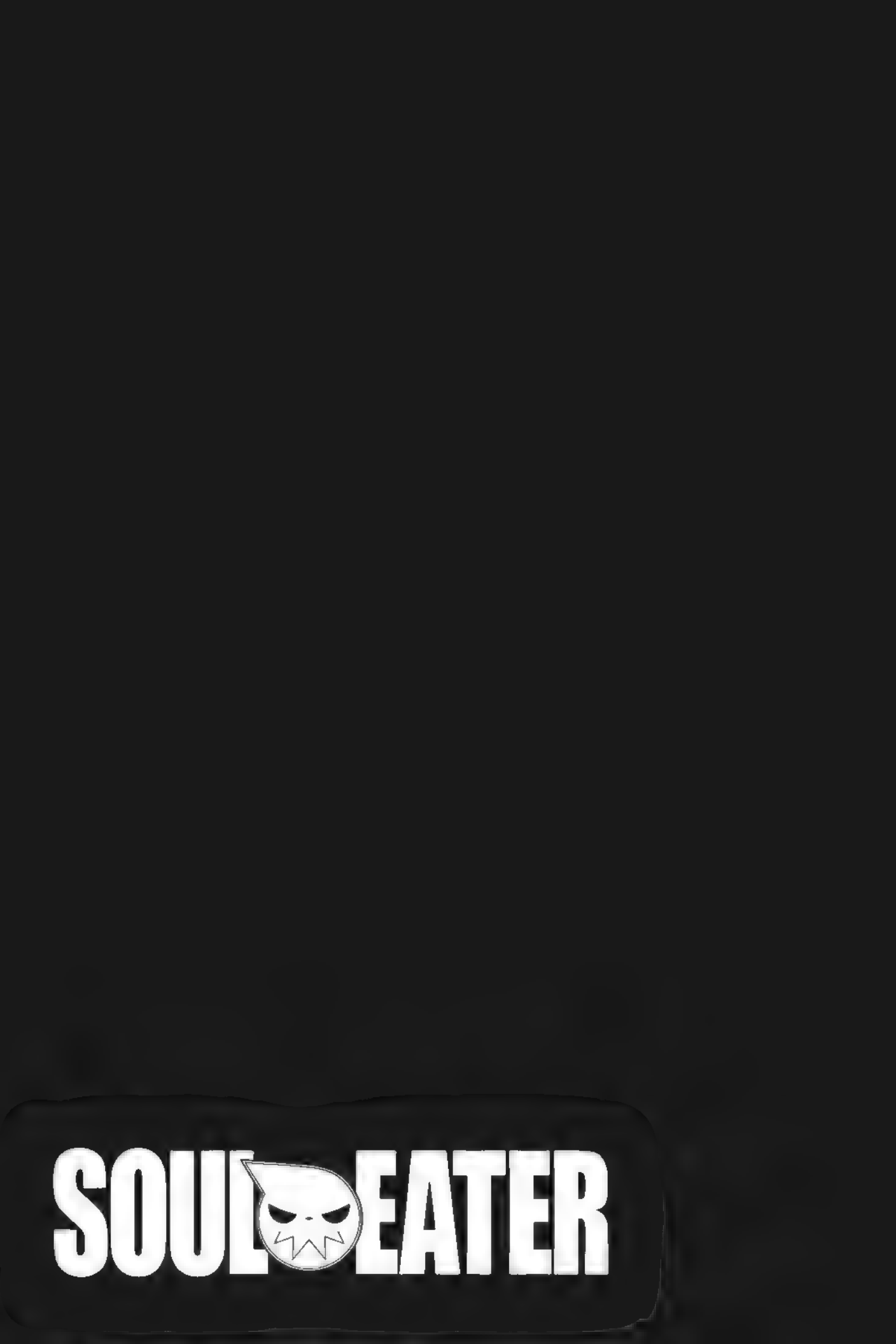
WHAT'S THIS PLACE?
IT'S AN OLD MINESHAFT THAT WAS DUG A LONG TIME AGO.

-SQUEAK-
-SQUEAK-
-SQUEAK-

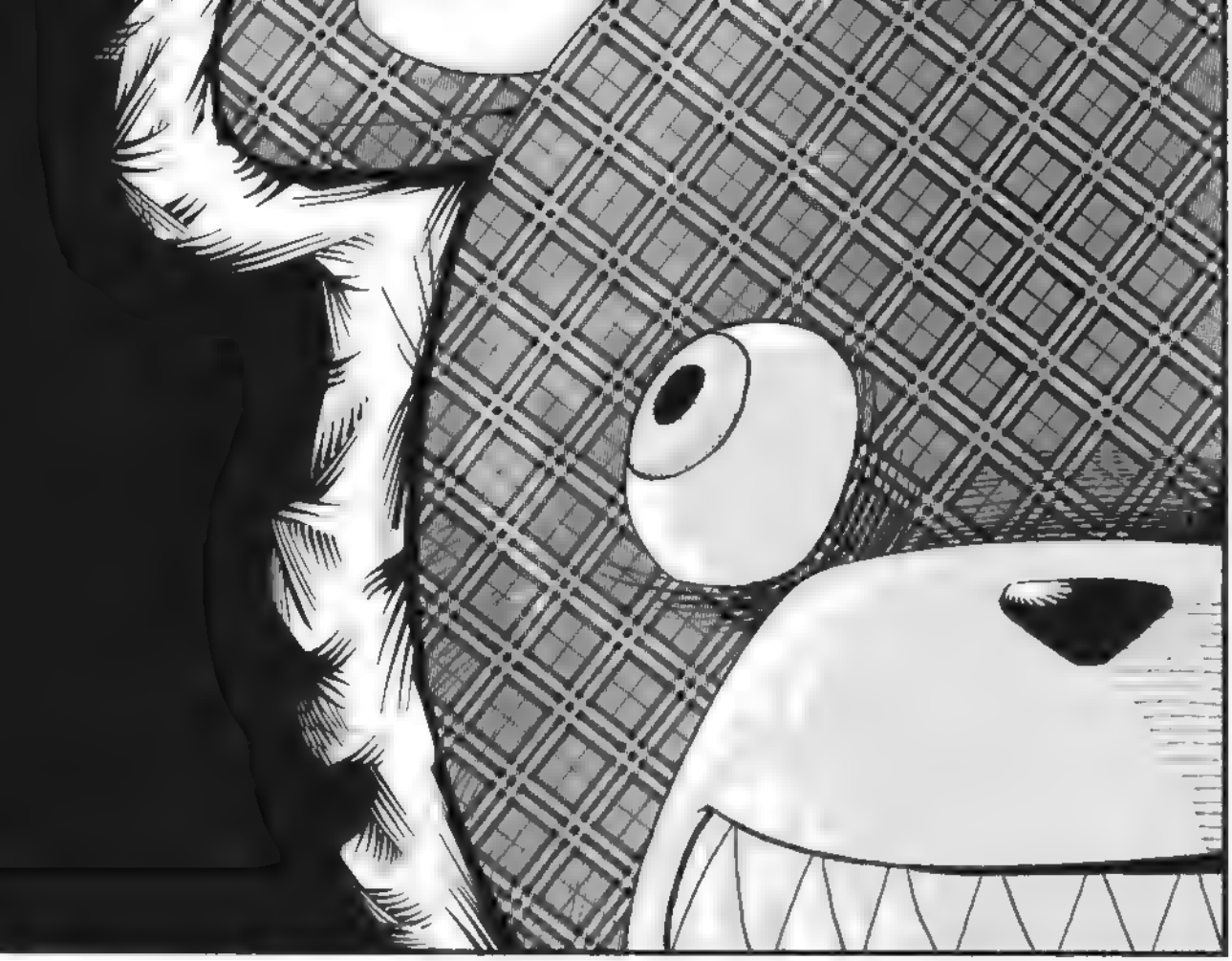
WHO IS THAT!?

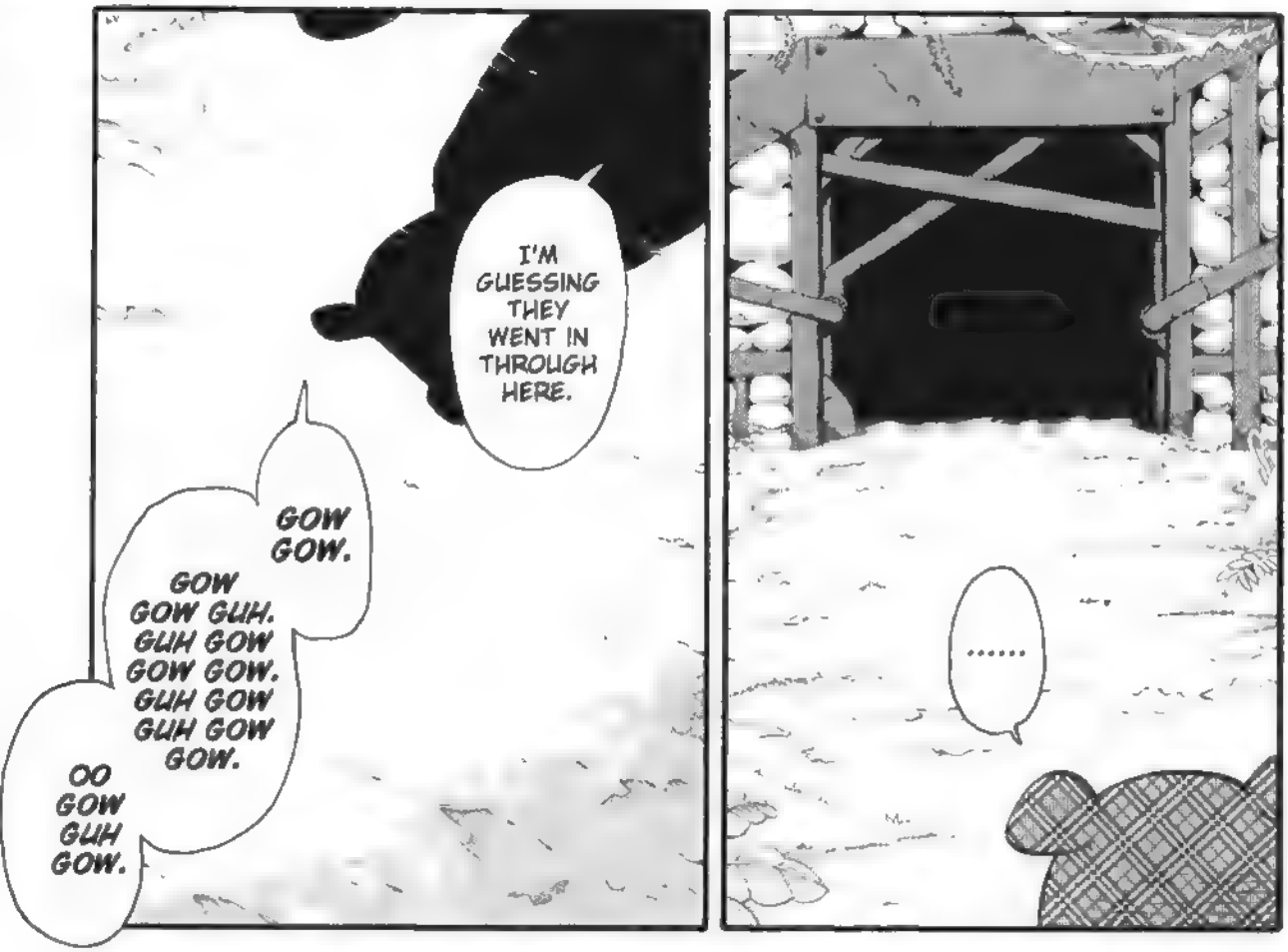
NO NEED TO WORRY.
THAT MASK... IT'S AN ARACHNO-PHOBIAN SOLDIER!

...
-SQUEAK-
-SQUEAK-
-SQUEAK-
JAB
I TAKE IT THERE WERE NO PROBLEMS?
BABA YAGA CASTLE IS JUST AT THE OTHER END OF THIS TUNNEL.
WE'RE GOING IN HERE.


SOUL EATER

CHAPTER 47: OPERATION CAPTURE
BABA YAGA CASTLE (PART 2)




I'M GUESSING THEY WENT IN THROUGH HERE.
GOW GOW.
GOW GOW GUH. GUH GOW GOW GOW. GUH GOW GUH GOW GOW.
OO GOW GUH GOW.
.....

ALL RIGHT, THEN. LET'S FOLLOW 'EM.
MYSTE-RIOUS BEAR (?)
YOU SAID IT, BROTH-ER!! NICE!!
AH-HA-HA-HA! HA-HA-HA!
I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU'RE A GODDAMN GENIUS, MY FRIEND.
BAANBA (PADULIM)
GOW GOW. GOW GOW GUH GOW GOW.
MYSTE-RIOUS MONKEY
GOW GOW. GOW GOWOO GOW.
APE
PACHI (CLAP)
PACHI
PACHI
HA-HYA-HYA... HYA-HYA-HYA... COME ON, MAN... YOU'RE GONNA MAKE ME PEE MY PANTS! ♪
GOW.
APE

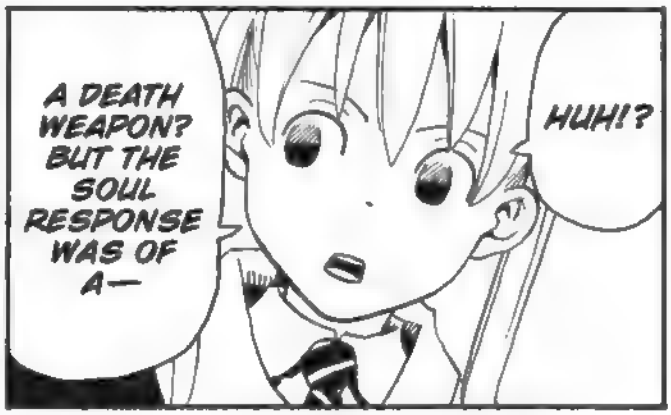
ARACHNO-PHOBIA'S SECURITY GETS CONSIDERABLY TIGHTER AFTER THE SUN GOES DOWN.
WE'LL SET UP CAMP INSIDE THIS CAVE FOR THE NIGHT.

BE ON YOUR GUARD FOR ANY-THING.

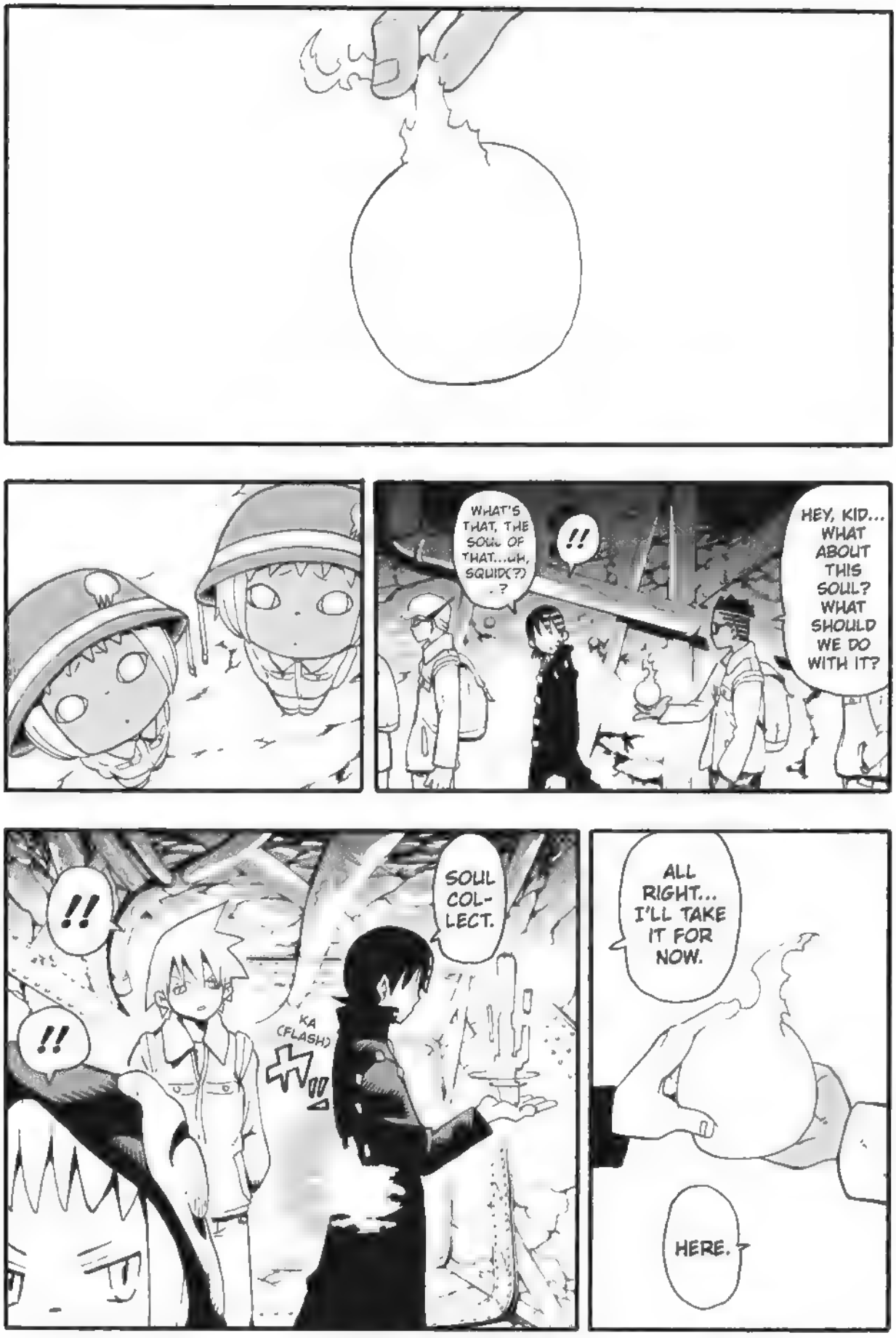
KOOOO (WHOOO)

I SENSE SOMETHING ...
SO ARACHNO-PHOBIA'S STRONG-HOLD'S AT THE OTHER END OF THIS TUNNEL, HUH...?
!!
SHHHH.
WHAT?
WE'RE BEING FOL— MMPH!

DON'T WORRY... THEY'RE ALLIES.
WE'RE HAVING ONE OF THE DEATH WEAPONS AND HIS MEISTER SECRETLY FOLLOW THE GROUP... BUT MEDUSA DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT IT.



SFX: PACHIN (SMACK)


WHAT'S THAT, THE SOUL OF THAT...UH, SQUID(?) ..?
!!
HEY, KID... WHAT ABOUT THIS SOUL? WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH IT?
!!
!!
KA (FLASH)
SOUL COL-LECT.
ALL RIGHT... I'LL TAKE IT FOR NOW.
HERE.

HOW'D HE SENSE IT?
UM... I GUESS I MUST'VE ACCIDENTALLY SWITCHED ON THE FLASHLIGHT I WAS HOLDING.
WHAT? OH... YEAH...
WHOA... KID, THERE WAS SOME KINDA WEIRD GLOW FROM YOUR BACK JUST NOW.
SHUT UP, YOU IDIOTS...!
BESIDES, YOU DON'T USUALLY CARRY ANYTHING IN YOUR HANDS, ANYWAY.
YOU'D JUST STAND THERE STRESSING ABOUT HAVING THE SAME AMOUNT OF STUFF ON EACH SIDE.
LIAR!! I'VE GOT YOUR FLASHLIGHT RIGHT HERE, MISTER...!
THAT BLUE LIGHT JUST NOW WAS DEFINITELY THE LIGHT FROM "BREW"... WHAT'S HE DOING WITH IT HERE?
SHINIGAMI... ARE YOU PLANNING ON USING "BREW" RIGHT AWAY? OR PERHAPS...
...DAMN. THAT'S SOME WEIRD SHIT.
IF I'M NOT CAREFUL, FLASHES OF LIGHT COULD APPEAR ANYWHERE ON MY BODY... ESPECIALLY ON MY BACK.
AH...WELL, YOU SEE, IT'S JUST BECAUSE I'M A SHINI-GAMI.

SQUEAK...
SQUEAK...
SQUEAK
SQUEAK...
SQUEAK
SQUEAK...
SQUEAK...
SQUEAK...
SQUEAK
SQUEAK...
SQUEAK...
SQUEAK
SQUEAK...
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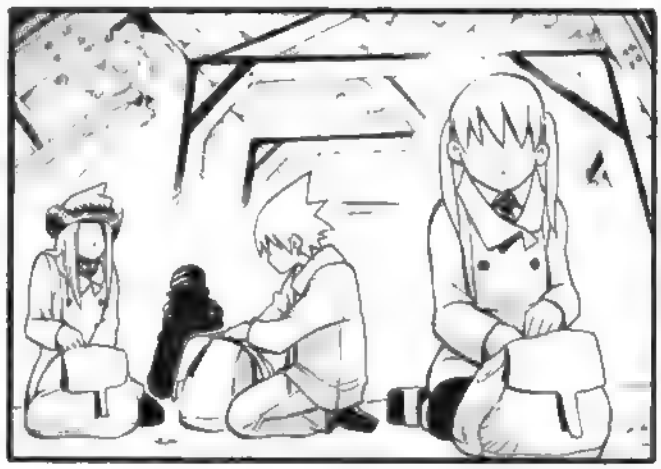
SQUEAK...
SQUEAK...
SQUEAK...
SQUEAK
SQUEAK...
SQUEAK...
SQUEAK...
SQUEAK
SQUEAK...
SQUEAK...
SQUEAK...
ARE YOU CERTAIN ABOUT THAT?
WHAT IS IT, MIZUNE?
!?
LISTEN UP, EVERYBODY.
PERFECT! THIS IS JUST THE SORT OF INFORMATION I NEED TO BOOST THE STUDENTS' MORALE.
WELL, THEY'RE HERE. MIZUNE JUST TOLD ME.
I EXPECT ALL OF YOU HAVE BEEN TERRIBLY WORRIED ABOUT WHERE KIM AND JACKIE WENT...?
2

I KNEW THIS WAS SOMETHING YOU WERE ALL VERY CONCERNED ABOUT...
SO JUST I WANTED TO PASS THE INFORMATION ALONG TO YOU QUICKLY.
UNFOR-TUNATELY, I DON'T KNOW ANY OF THE DETAILS OF HOW THEY GOT HERE.
WHAT ?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
THEY'RE BOTH WITH ARACHNO-PHOBIA.
I CAN SAY THIS MUCH, HOWEVER... ARACHNE IS VERY SKILLED AT USING WORDS TO LURE PEOPLE IN. SHE PREYS ON THEIR WEAKNESSES.
THERE MUST BE SOME KIND OF EXPLANA-TION...
...THERE'S NO WAY KIM WOULD JOIN FORCES WITH ARACHNO-PHOBIA!!
EVEN AS A WITCH ...
...AND ONCE THEY'RE CAUGHT IN HER TRAP, SHE MAKES SURE THERE'S NO ESCAPE.
SHE TELLS THEM JUST WHAT THEY NEED TO HEAR...

SOUNDS LIKE SOME KIND OF MESSED UP RELIGIOUS CULT.
YOU HAVE TO BE PRETTY MESSED UP YOURSELF TO FALL FOR IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
THAT'S EXACTLY HOW ARACH-NOPHOBIA GOT AS BIG AS IT IS TODAY.
EVERYONE IN THE ORGANIZATION WORSHIPS ARACHNE AS AN ABSOLUTE MOTHER FIGURE.
WHICH IS PRECISELY WHY WE'RE TARGETING ARACHNE AND CERTAIN TOP LEADERS CLOSEST TO HER.
WE CRUSH THEM, AND ARACHNO-PHOBIA CRUMBLES TO THE GROUND.
LET'S GET MOVING. AND REMEMBER, PART OF THE REASON YOU'RE DOING THIS IS SO YOU CAN SEE KIM AND JACKIE AGAIN.



LET'S REST HERE TONIGHT.

SOME-
THING
I CAN
DO FOR
YOU?
I WANT
TO
TALK
ABOUT
CRONA.
I ALSO WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU'RE DOING THIS. WHAT MAKES YOU WANT TO TAKE DOWN ARACHNOPHOBIA SO BAD THAT YOU'RE EVEN WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH DWMA TO DO IT?
I KNOW YOU'RE UP TO SOMETHING.
THAT'S WHY YOU PICKED ONLY STUDENTS FOR THE TEAM. YOU DIDN'T WANT ANYONE WHO COULD GET IN YOUR WAY.
BUT I'M WARNING YOU, DON'T UNDER-
ESTIMATE US.
WE WILL CRUSH YOU IF IT'S THE LAST THING WE DO.

...BUT EVEN SO, THERE AREN'T MANY MOTHERS IN THE WORLD WHO'D WILLINGLY PART WITH THEIR CHILD.
IT MAY BE TRUE THAT ALL I WAS TO CRONA WAS AN OBJECT OF TERROR...
?
YOU FORGET, I'M THE PARENT OF A CHILD. THAT'S WHY I'M DOING THIS.
WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR CHILDREN, PARENTS WILL DO ANYTHING.
YOU'VE SEEN HOW YOUR OWN FATHER ACTS...AND I KNOW YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
...CRONA'S A LOT BETTER OFF WITH US THAN HE WAS WITH YOU!
I'M SURE HE WAS MUCH HAPPIER AT DWMA ...!!
B-BE THAT AS IT MAY...
...SO I'LL BE HONEST WITH YOU ABOUT WHY I'M STARTING THIS FIGHT WITH ARACH-NOPHOBIA.
MAKA-CHAN, YOU'VE BEEN A VERY GOOD FRIEND TO CRONA...
...

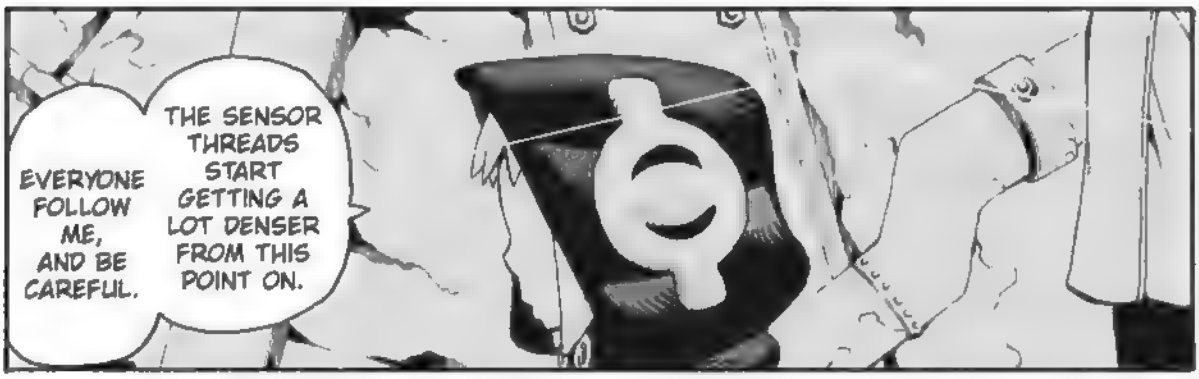
CRONA WAS CAPTURED BY ARACHNE, AND SHE INTENDS TO USE HIM AS A HUMAN SACRIFICE.

I WON'T ALLOW ARACHNE TO DO THAT TO MY BABY.

ANYWAY, WE'VE GOT LOTS MORE WALKING TO DO TOMOR-ROW.
GO AND GET SOME REST.

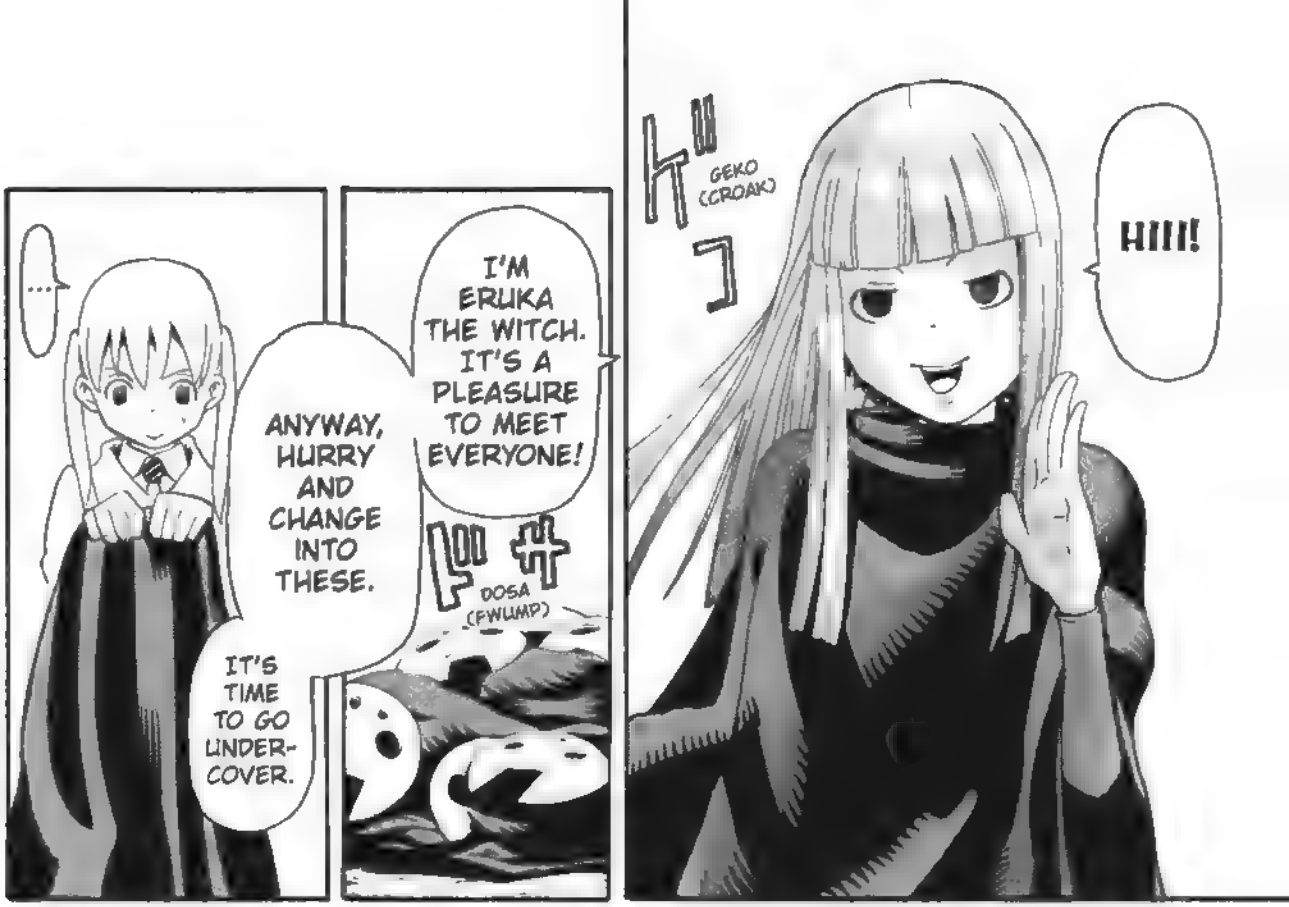
THAT'S WHY I SWALLOWED MY PRIDE AS A WITCH. WHY I EVEN GAVE UP "BREW"... I REALLY NEEDED SHINIGAMI'S HELP.
NO... CRONA!?

...
...
YEAH, I KNOW ...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT MEDUSA TOLD YOU JUST NOW, BUT...
...I WOULDN'T TRUST HER AS FAR AS I COULD THROW HER.



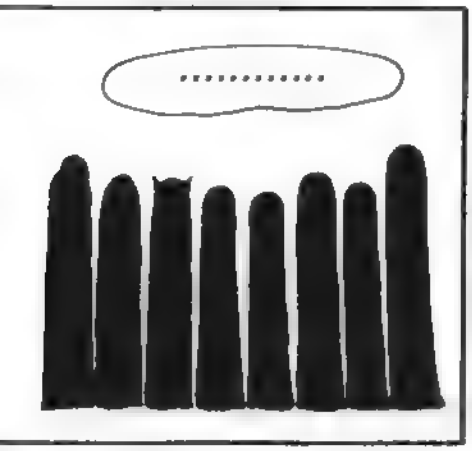
SFX: HAA (PANT) HAA

I SEE THAT SOME OF YOU HAVE ALREADY REALIZED, BUT...
I'M SOOO TIRED OF WALKING... HOW MUCH LONGER BEFORE WE GET THERE...?
WHOA... KID, DO YOU SENSE THAT?
YEAH. AN UNBELIEVABLE NUMBER OF SOULS ...
EEH!?
...WE'RE ALREADY THERE. WE'RE INSIDE BABA YAGA CASTLE NOW.
SQUEAK- SQUEAK- SQUEAK
HEH-HEH-HEH... I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU GUYS TO SHOW UP.
HEY... ARE WE GONNA BE OKAY ...?

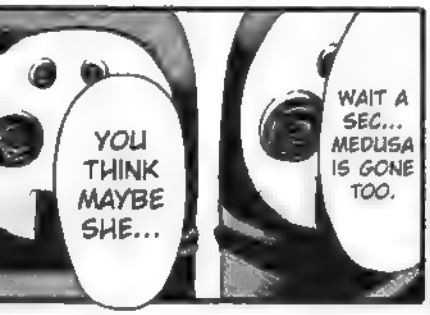

HIII!
GEKO (CROAK)
I'M ERUKA THE WITCH. IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET EVERYONE!
DOSA (FWUMP)
ANYWAY, HURRY AND CHANGE INTO THESE.
IT'S TIME TO GO UNDER-COVER.
...

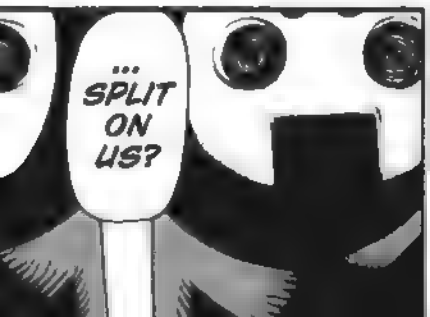
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE LET BYGONES BE BYGONES, LITTLE MAN?♡
CHU (KISS)
CROAK?
I REMEMBER YOU FROM THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. AND NOT IN A GOOD WAY
FIRE AND THUNDER, YOU TWO HIDE INSIDE THE HOOD

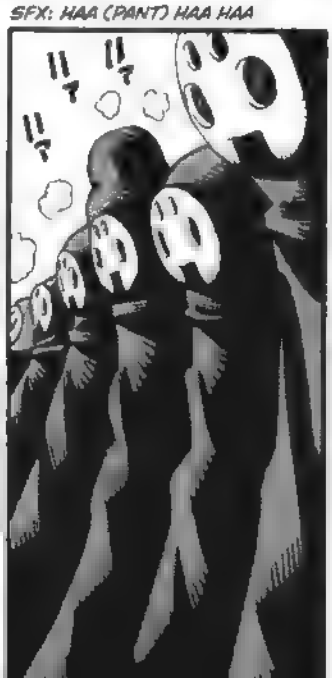
OKAY, HERE WE GO. EVERYONE FOLLOW ME.
HMPF



SFX: HAA (PANT) HAA HAA

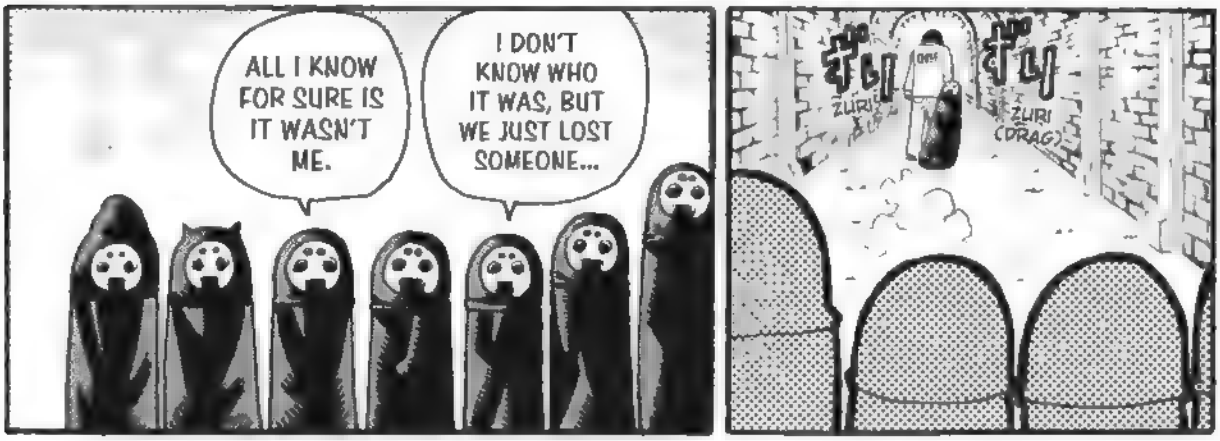


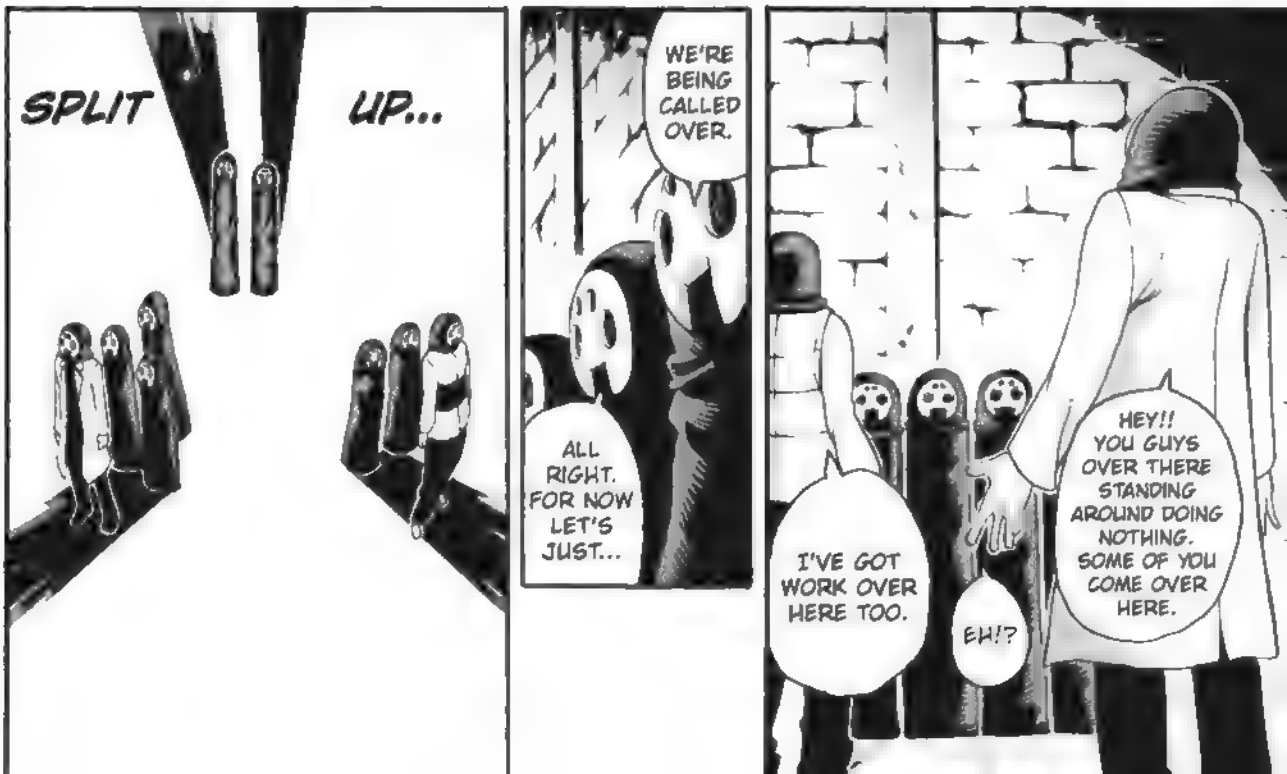




DOTABATA (CLAMOR)
HEY... WHERE'S THE WITCH FROM EARLIER!?
IS IT YOU!?
NO...BUT WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!?
LIKE I KNOW!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS DOING!!? LOOK FOR HER!!

EH!? EH!? WAIT!! WHY ME!?
COME WITH ME.
FINE. I GUESS YOU'LL DO.
WHO'S THAT!?
ONE OF YOU OVER THERE... COME HERE FOR A SECOND.
CHIEF

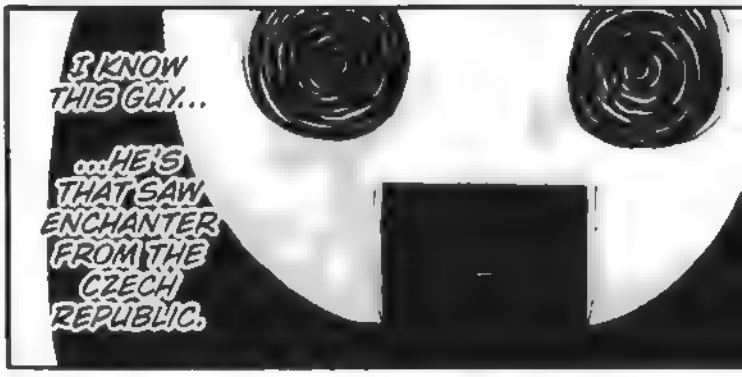

ALL I KNOW FOR SURE IS IT WASN'T ME.
I DON'T KNOW WHO IT WAS, BUT WE JUST LOST SOMEONE...
ZURI
ZURI
ZURI (DRAG)


SPLIT
UP...
WE'RE BEING CALLED OVER.
ALL RIGHT. FOR NOW LET'S JUST...
I'VE GOT WORK OVER HERE TOO.
EH!?
HEY!! YOU GUYS OVER THERE STANDING AROUND DOING NOTHING. SOME OF YOU COME OVER HERE.

EXCUSE US...
ROOM CLEANING. YOU CAN CLEAN A ROOM, CAN'T YOU?
I'M STILL NEW HERE, SO...I DON'T REALLY...
UM, SIR...? WHAT AM I BEING ASKED TO DO?
OKAY, GET TO IT.
WHOA... THIS PLACE IS A MESS ...
I NEED YOU TO COME CLEAN EVERY HALF HOUR.
YOU'RE FUCKIN' LATE.
...
UMM... WHERE DO I START ...?

!!
GASHAN (SMASH)
ガシャン
THIS PLACE GETS DIRTY IN A HURRY.
POI (TOSS)

UH...
YES, SIR!! RIGHT AWAY!
PEKO (BOW)
GET YOUR ASS TO WORK.
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?


I KNOW THIS GUY...
...HE'S THAT SAW ENCHANTER FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC.

Y-Y-YEEES...
GASHI (GRAB)
ガシ
WHAT... ARE YOU A WOMAN OR SOMETHIN'?

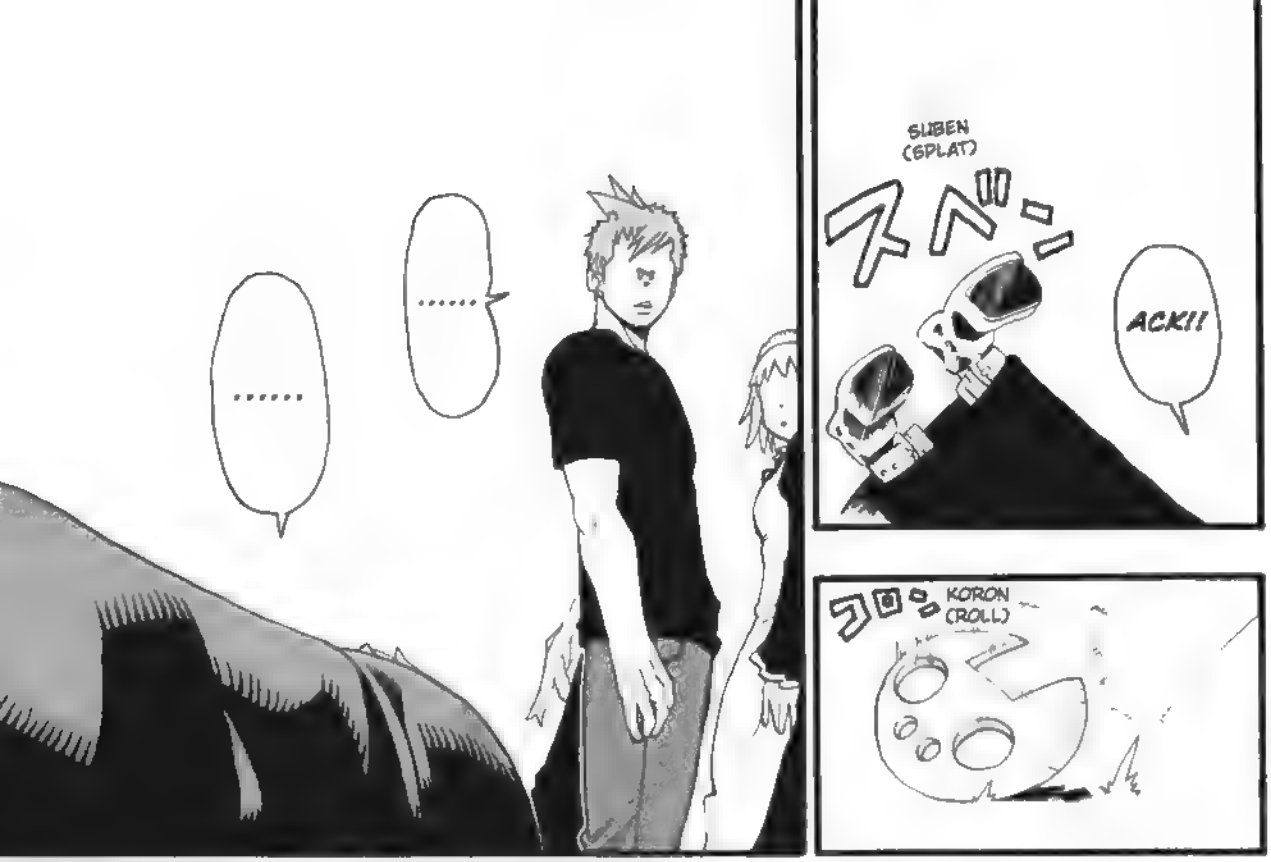
HM?

YOU BETTER DO WHAT I SAY. OR I'LL FUCKIN' CHOP THAT MASK OFF WITH YOUR HEAD STILL IN IT.
...
THEN TAKE OFF YOUR MASK.
I WANNA SEE WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE.

IF I DON'T TAKE IT OFF, HE'S GONNA KILL ME.
NO MATTER WHAT EXCUSE I TRY TO GIVE, THIS GUY WILL FORCE ME TO TAKE OFF MY MASK.
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

SFX: IRA (IRRITATED) IRA IRA

WHO ARE YOU TWO...?
!!
AND I'M PATTY...!
HI THERE! I'M LIZ...!
KUIN
KUIN (YANK)
WE... CAME HERE TO CLEAN THE ROOM...
WOW! ♡ THIS GUY IS HOT! ♪
UMM...SO I GUESS I SHOULD JUST...?
YOU CAN GO.
FOR REAL? I'D LOVE TO!
FUCK THE CLEANIN', GIRLS... COME JOIN ME FOR A NIGHTCAP.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT LITTLE ONE. BECAUSE YOU...ARE HOT... ♪
KYA! ♡
KYA! ♡
GA (STOMP)
WHEW. THANK G—


.....
.....
SUBEN (SPLAT)
スベ～
ACK!!

コロ～
KORON (ROLL)

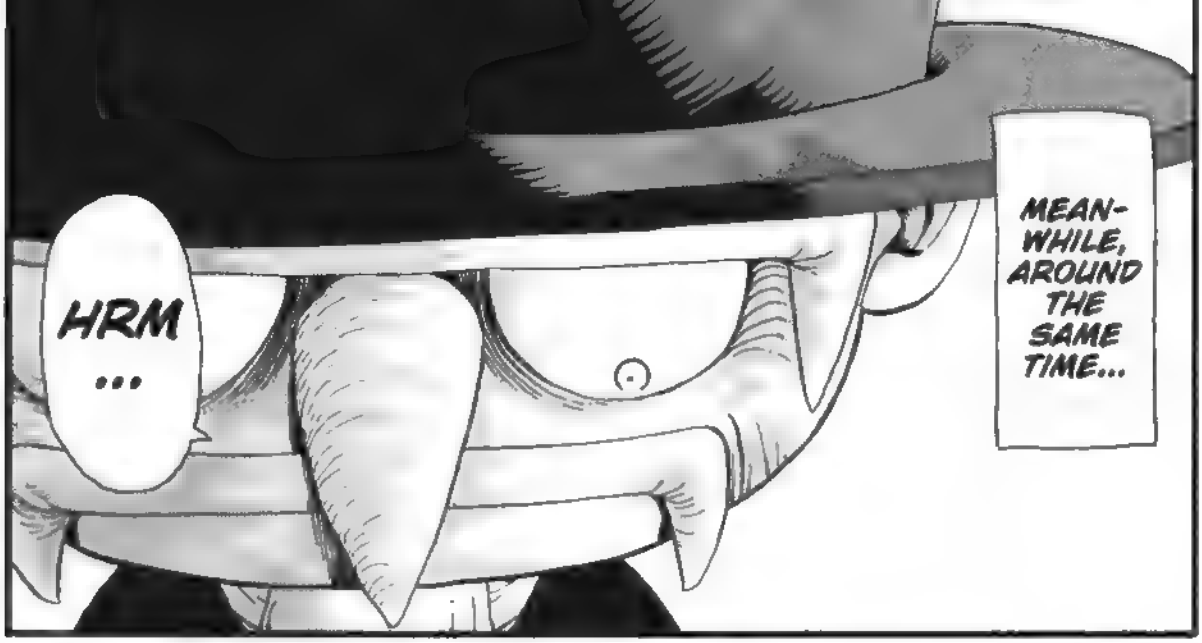
OH SHIT...!!

...
YOU ...

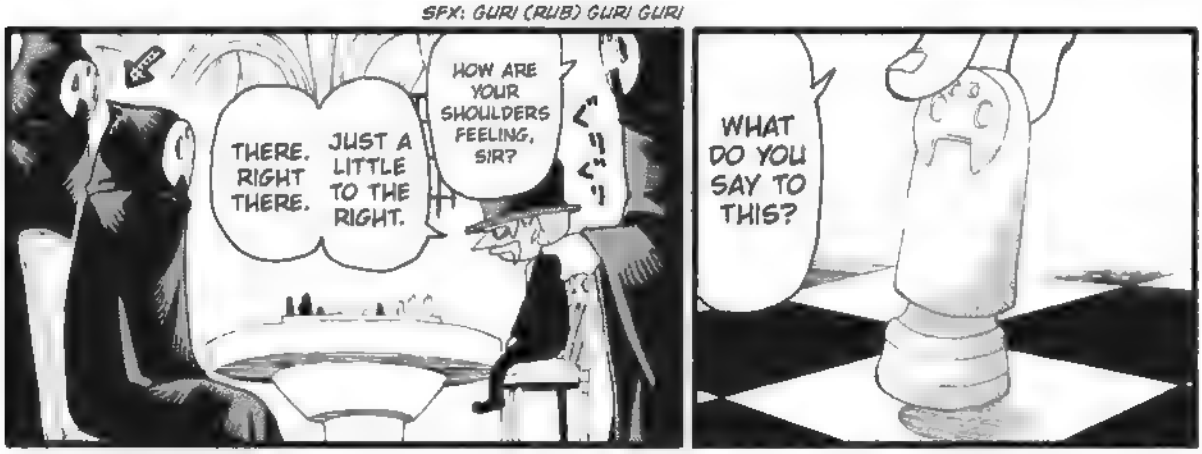
...

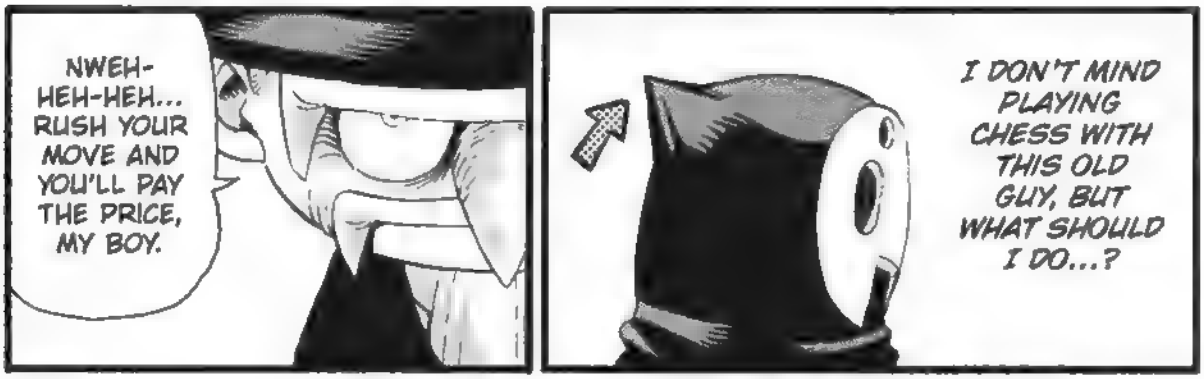
YEAH... I KNOW, I KNOW. I MEAN...I'M STILL JUST A KID, BUT...
I WONDER HOW COME HE ADDED AN EXTRA THREE YEARS ON ME...? OH WELL, I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER...
TOBO (TRUDGE)
TOBO

YOU CAN GO NOW.
...ARE GONNA BE A HOT PIECE OF ASS IN SEVEN YEARS. ...NO, TEN YEARS.



SFX: GURI (RUB) GURI GURI





GOOD CALL, HARVAR-KUN. GO EASY ON HIM AND PLAY TO LOSE.
FURU
FURU (SHAKE)
SHOULD I GO EASY ON HIM AND PLAY TO LOSE...? OR SHOULD I SLAP THIS OLD GEEZER WITH A HARD DOSE OF REALITY...?
THE PROBLEM IS... THE OLD COOT IS SERIOUSLY WEAK AT CHESS.

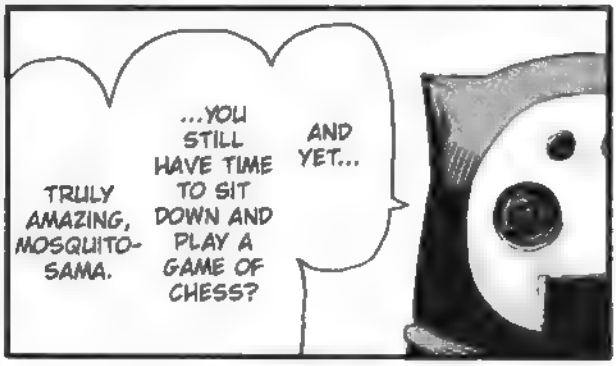
GUNEN
GUNEN (WRIGGLE)
!!
BFF!
OKAY ...
YOU STANDING BEHIND THERE... WATCH THE BATTLE AND LEARN WELL, MY BOY.
BOSO (WHISPER)
HEY, OX... HURRY AND FINISH THIS ASSHOLE OFF.

BAIN (BOING)
OIN (OING)
AIN (OING)
BOIN (BOING)
WHAT ON EARTH...? SOMETHING VERY STRANGE IS GOING ON WITH YOU.
WASA (RUSTLE)
HEY... HEY...! FIRE! THUNDER! STOP FIGHTING ...!

CRAP! WE'RE GONNA BE FOUND OUT...!
WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY? IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN ...

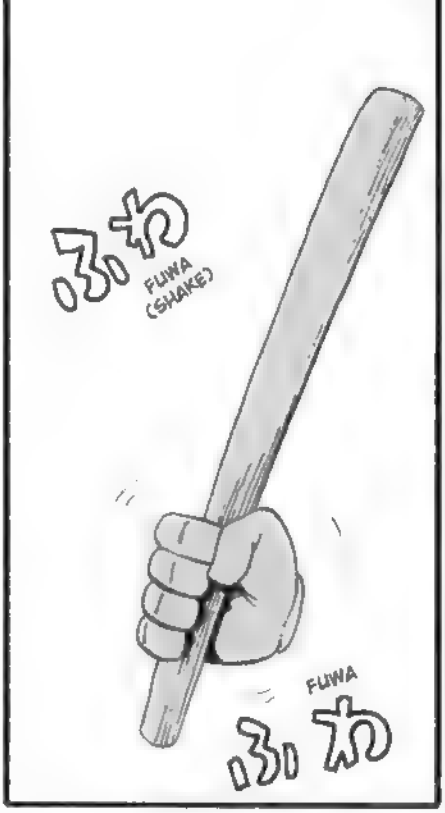
ぼぼ
BOO (BWOOM)
Y-YES! YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY CORRECT, SIR! OBSERVE!
HE CAN EVEN DO THIS!
OOH.
...YOU MUST BE ONE OF THOSE NEW DEMON TOOL SOLDIERS WE JUST DEVELOPED.

IT'S UNDER-STANDABLE THAT GIRIKO'S GOING WILD THESE DAYS.
IT'S THAT BLASTED SORCERER ...

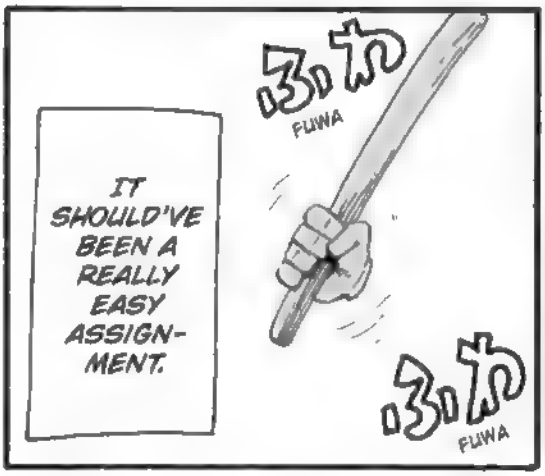

TRULY AMAZING, MOSQUITO-SAMA.
...YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO SIT DOWN AND PLAY A GAME OF CHESS?
AND YET...

NO ONE BUT THAT MAN IS ALLOWED TO ENTER ARACHNE'S ROOM.
OH, I'M CERTAIN YOU BOYS HAVE ALREADY HEARD.

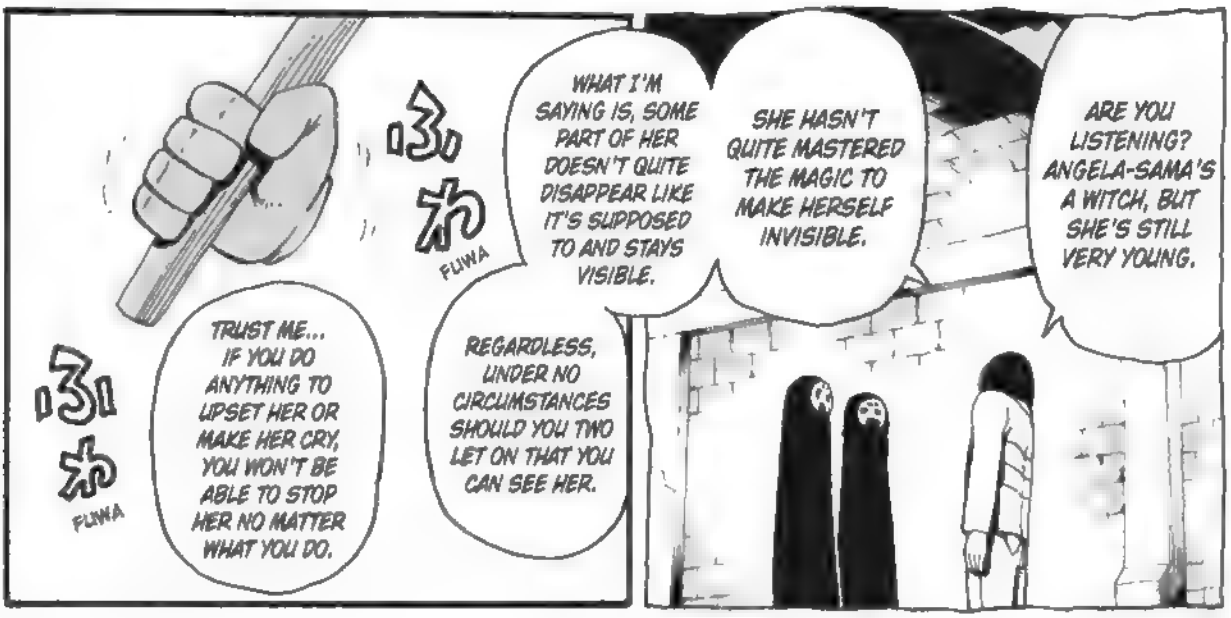
"THAT MAN" ...?


ふわ
FUWA
(SHAKE)
FUWA
ふわ

.....
ELSE-
WHERE
...


IT SHOULD'VE BEEN A REALLY EASY ASSIGN-MENT.
ふわ
FUWA
ふわ
FUWA

OUR JOB WAS BEING HIDE-AND-SEEK PARTNERS FOR A LITTLE WITCH GIRL...


ふわ
FUWA
ふわ
FUWA
TRUST ME... IF YOU DO ANYTHING TO UPSET HER OR MAKE HER CRY, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP HER NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO.
REGARDLESS, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU TWO LET ON THAT YOU CAN SEE HER.
WHAT I'M SAYING IS, SOME PART OF HER DOESN'T QUITE DISAPPEAR LIKE IT'S SUPPOSED TO AND STAYS VISIBLE.
SHE HASN'T QUITE MASTERED THE MAGIC TO MAKE HERSELF INVISIBLE.
ARE YOU LISTENING? ANGELA-SAMA'S A WITCH, BUT SHE'S STILL VERY YOUNG.

HUH...? I DON'T SEE HER ANY-WHERE...
I CAN SEE YOU, YOU STUPID LITTLE KID. NOW WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WITH THAT STICK...!?
HUH...? WHERE DID SHE GO...?
HUH ...?
HEE-HEE-HEE! ♪

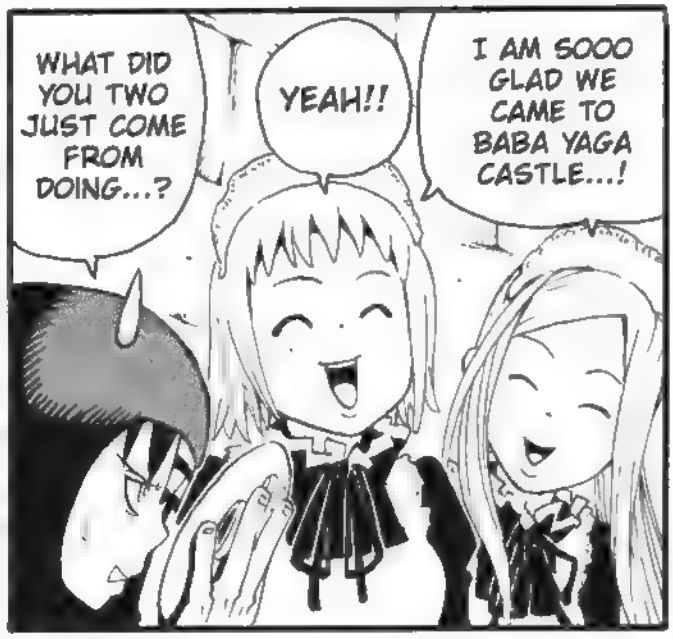
HEY, YOU!! WHY DON'T YOU STOP THIS BRAT!!?
OSAMU AT
GET AWAY, YOU LITTLE SHRIMP!! GET AWAY WITH THAT STICK...!
SU
SU
SU (CREEP)
WHOA, WHOA... SHE'S COMING IN CLOSE.

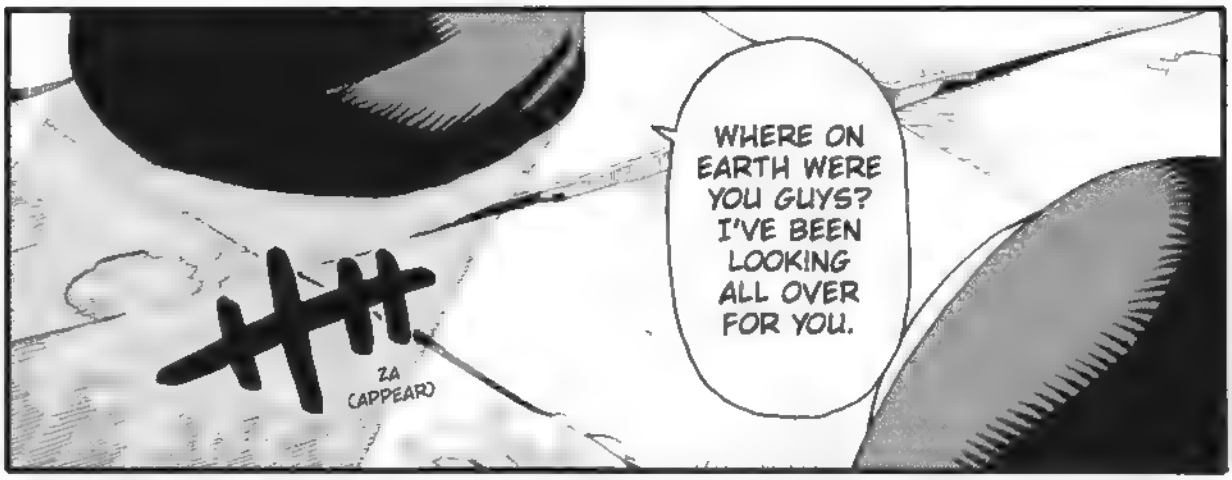
BYU (WHOOSH)
I'M SERIOUS, NOT THERE!!
THAT'S THE ONE PLACE YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO HIT A GUY—
NO, NOT THERE!! NOT THERE!! DON'T AIM THERE...!! YOU CAN STILL ADJUST THE SWING...!!
WHAT KIND OF STUPID PUNISHMENT GAME IS THIS!? WHOA, WAIT!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING COCKING THE BAT...!!?
GU (GRIP)

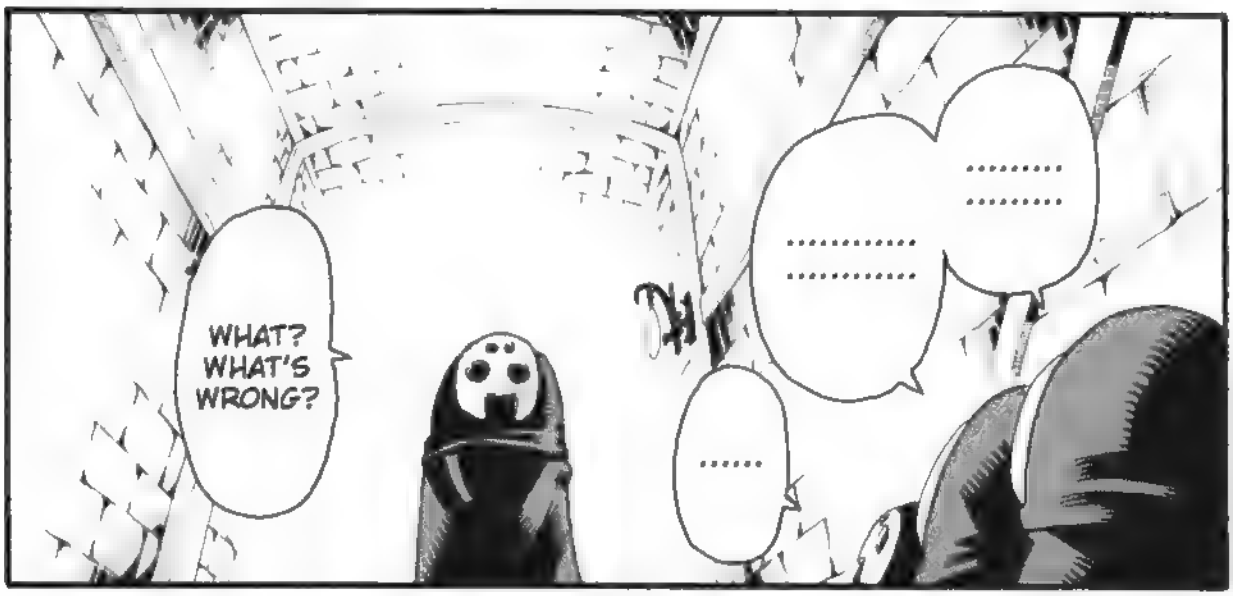
YAAAY!
♪
ANGELA
WINS!
GATA
(TREMBLE)
GATA
BURU
(SHAKE)
GATA
PIKU
(TWITCH)
PIKU
!!
CHIIIN
(DOOONG)
I'M PREPARED FOR THE WORST, LITTLE GIRL... BRING IT ON!!
JUST HANG IN THERE, SOUL...I WON'T LET YOU GO DOWN ALONE!! I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU!!
GATA
GATA
OKAY, BUT I PLAY TO WIN!
OKAY... ONE MORE TIME...
SU
(VANISH)
AND I'M BEGGING YOU, PLEASE AIM RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE... STRAIGHT AHEAD AND NO VEERING!!
WHERE DID SHE GO...?
HUH ...?
BUT PLEASE MAKE IT QUICK!!

くったり
GUTTARI (POOPED)
KYA-HA-HA-HA!♪

...
WELLLL...♪


WHAT DID YOU TWO JUST COME FROM DOING...?
YEAH!!
I AM SOOO GLAD WE CAME TO BABA YAGA CASTLE...!


WHERE ON EARTH WERE YOU GUYS? I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU.
ZA (APPEAR)


WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG?
.....
.....
.....
.....
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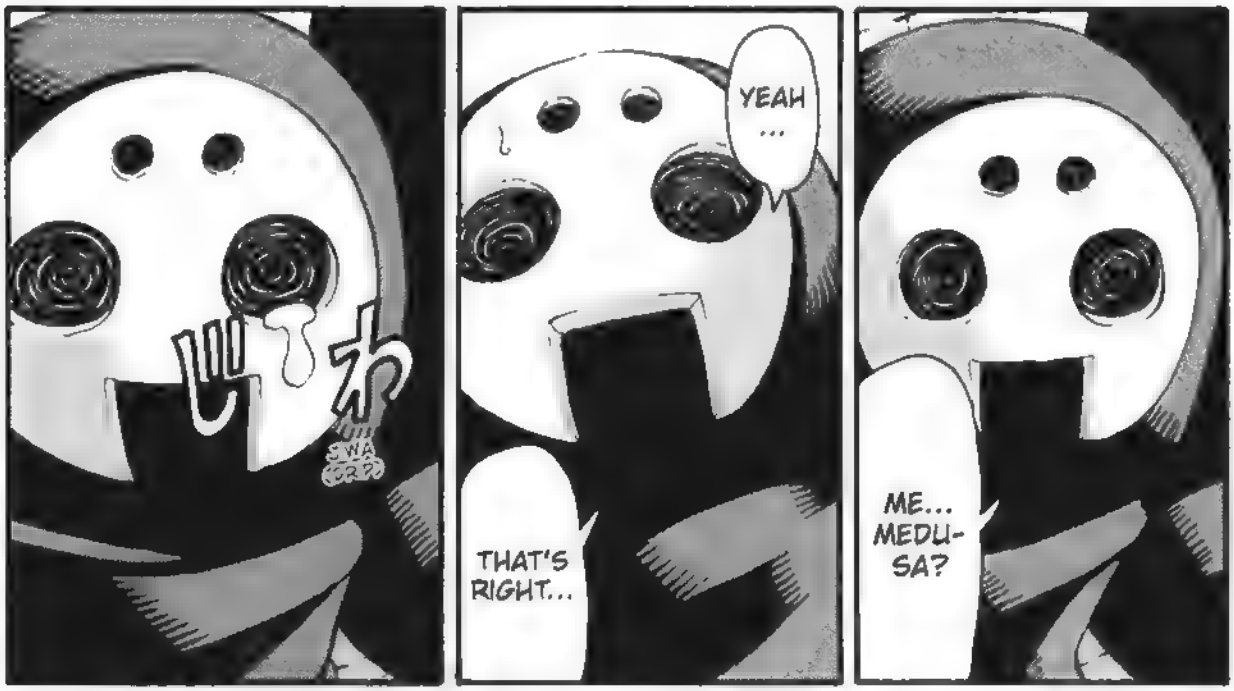
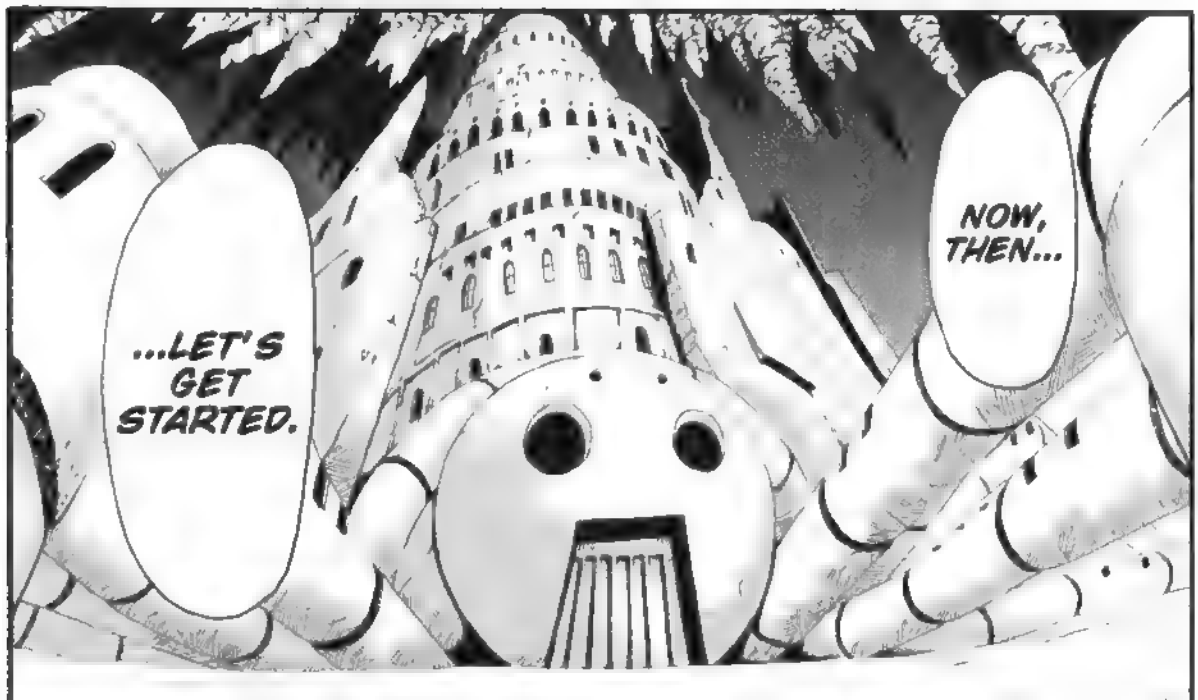
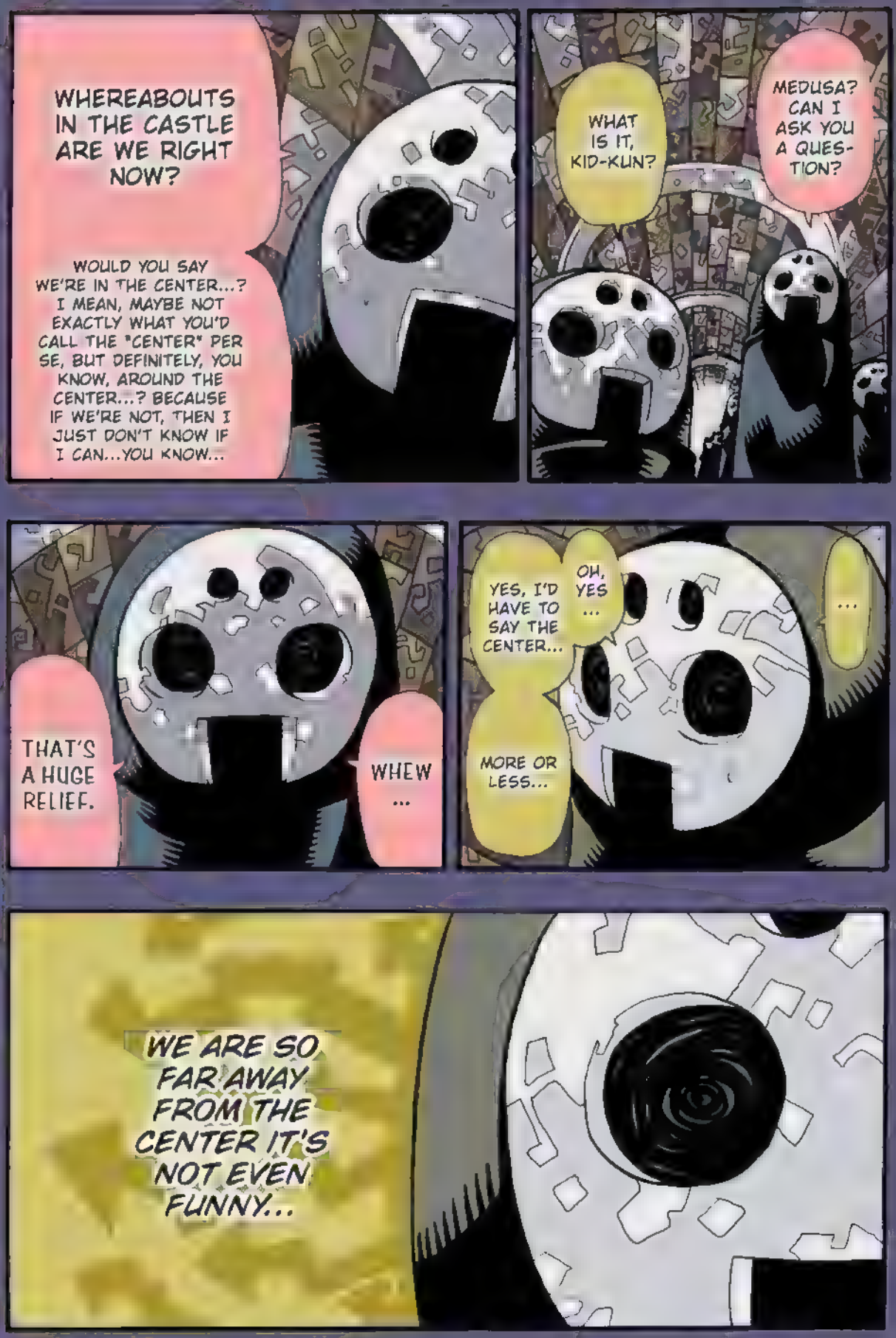

SWA (GRP)
YEAH ...
THAT'S RIGHT...
ME... MEDU-SA?

うわ～ん
UWAAAN
(WAAAH)

I WAS JUST OFF MAKING SOME PREPA-RATIONS.
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME!?
WE THOUGHT YOU TURNED YOUR BACK ON US INSIDE ENEMY TERRITORY!
GUZURI (SNIFF)


NOW, THEN...
...LET'S GET STARTED.

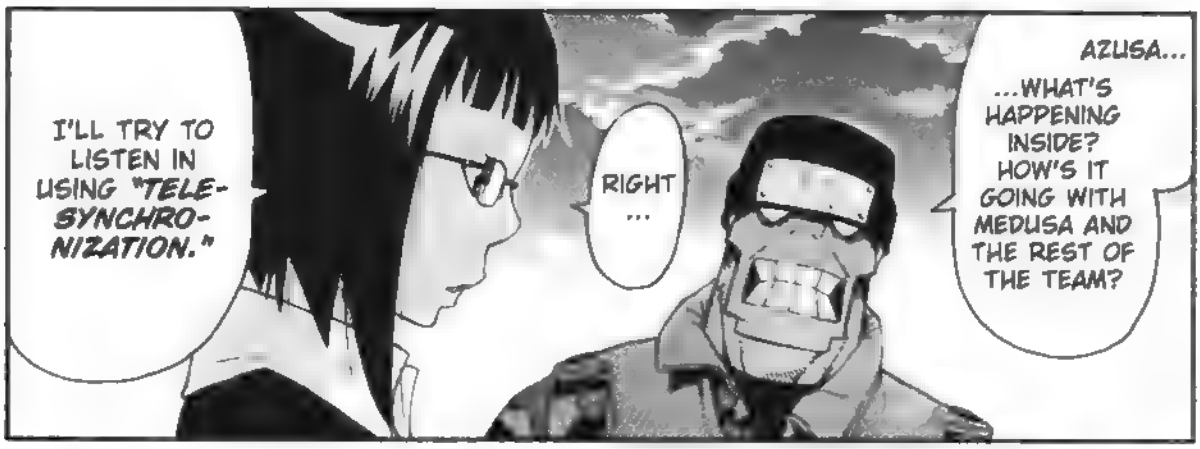
SOUL EATER

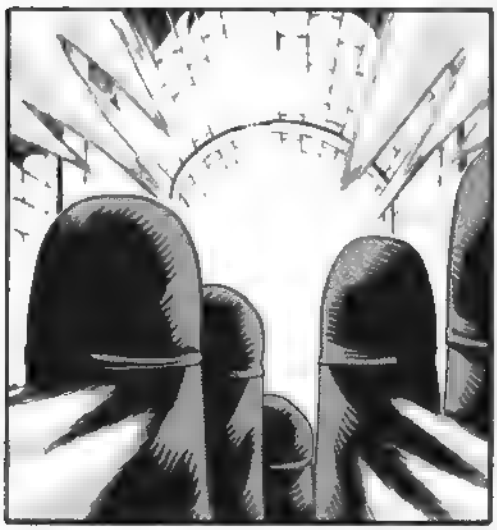

WHEREABOUTS IN THE CASTLE ARE WE RIGHT NOW?
WOULD YOU SAY WE'RE IN THE CENTER...? I MEAN, MAYBE NOT EXACTLY WHAT YOU'D CALL THE "CENTER" PER SE, BUT DEFINITELY, YOU KNOW, AROUND THE CENTER...? BECAUSE IF WE'RE NOT, THEN I JUST DON'T KNOW IF I CAN...YOU KNOW...
WHAT IS IT, KID-KUN?
MEDUSA? CAN I ASK YOU A QUES-TION?
THAT'S A HUGE RELIEF.
WHEW ...
YES, I'D HAVE TO SAY THE CENTER...
MORE OR LESS...
OH, YES ...
...
WE ARE SO FAR AWAY FROM THE CENTER IT'S NOT EVEN FUNNY...

CHAPTER 48: OPERATION CAPTURE
BABA YAGA CASTLE (PART 3)

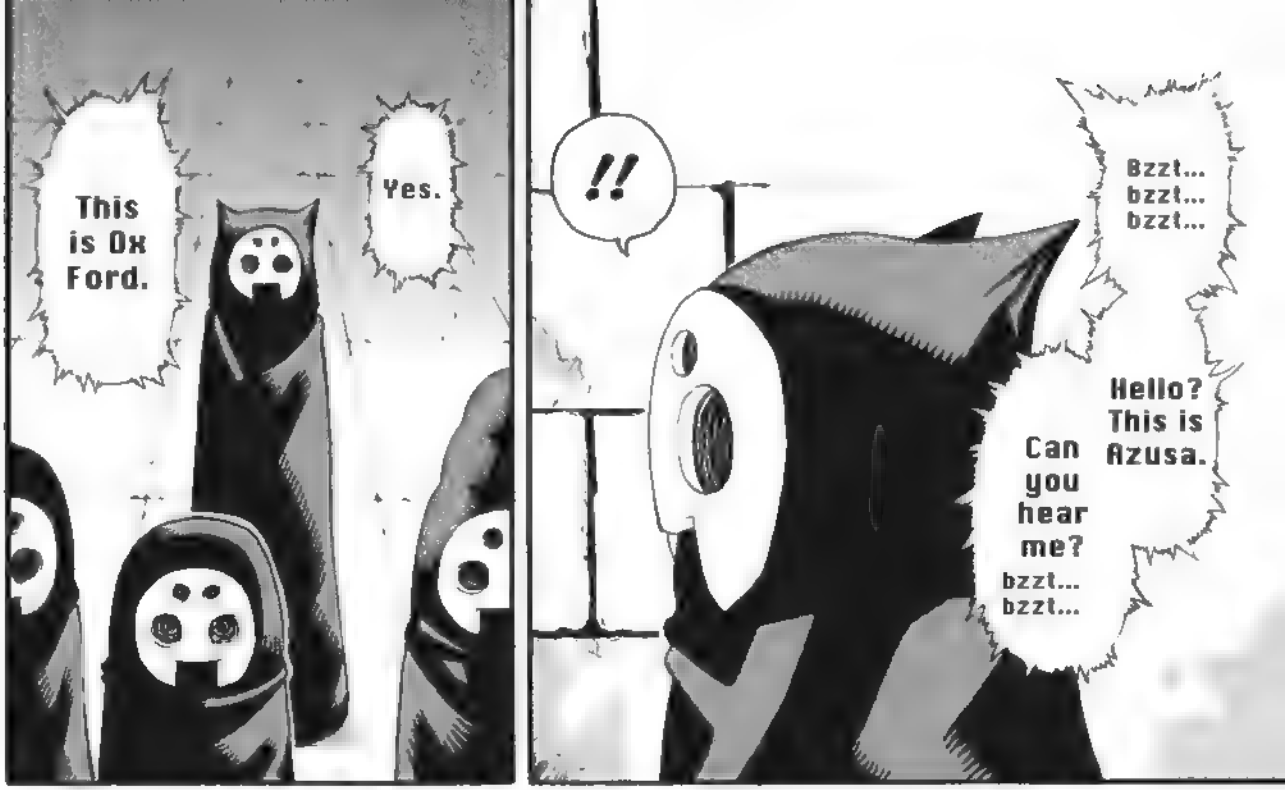
GRAFFITI: SKY ABOVE, SKY BELOW

SOUL EATER

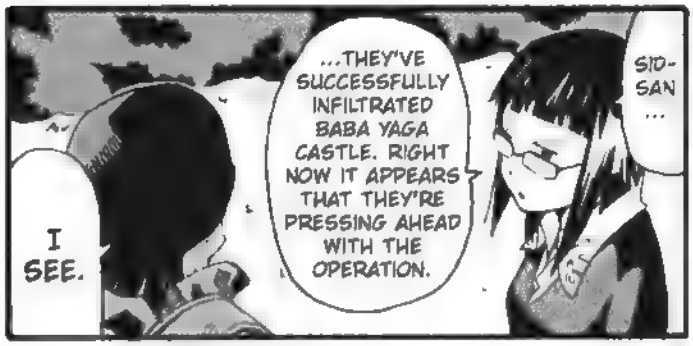

I'LL TRY TO LISTEN IN USING "TELE-SYNCHRO-NIZATION."
RIGHT ...
AZUSA...
...WHAT'S HAPPENING INSIDE? HOW'S IT GOING WITH MEDUSA AND THE REST OF THE TEAM?



THOUSAND-MILE EYES.

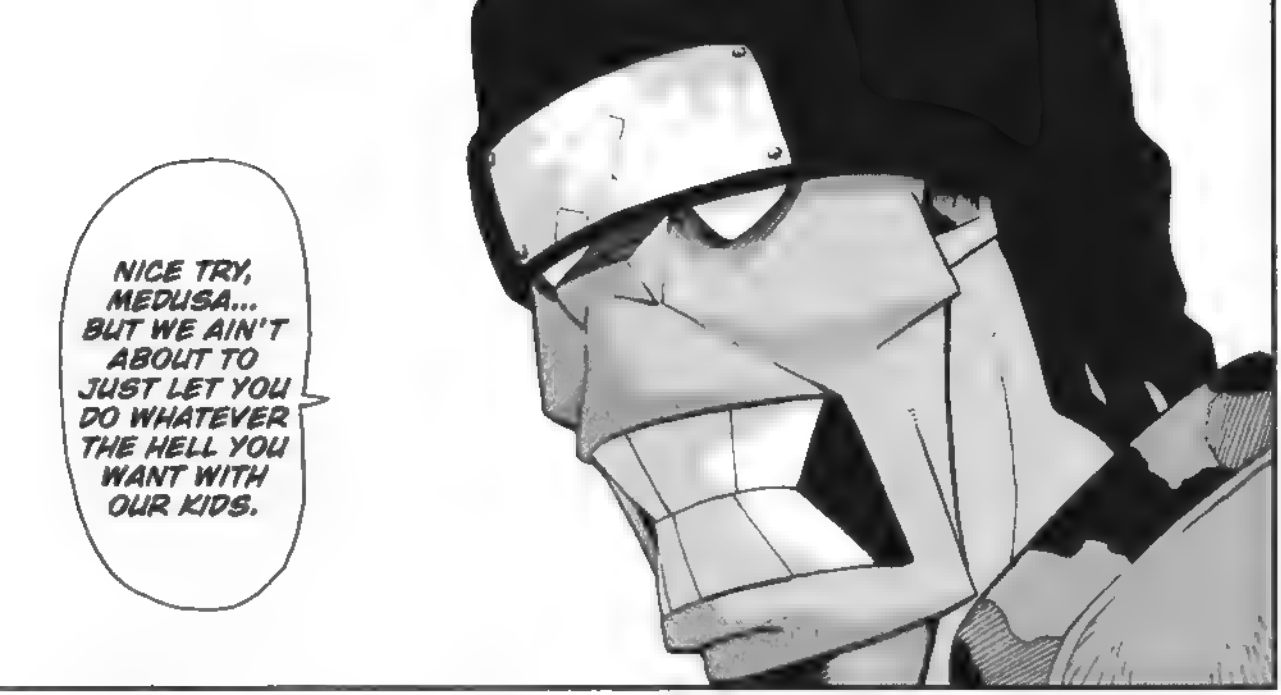

This is Ox Ford.
Yes.
!!
Bzzt... bzzt... bzzt...
Hello? This is Azusa.
Can you hear me?
bzzt... bzzt...

We're undercover inside Baba Yaga Castle. We're just about to move ahead with the mission Medusa spoke of.
What's the situation in there?


I SEE.
...THEY'VE SUCCESSFULLY INFILTRATED BABA YAGA CASTLE. RIGHT NOW IT APPEARS THAT THEY'RE PRESSING AHEAD WITH THE OPERATION.
SID-SAN ...

All right. Be careful, and contact me if anything goes wrong.
Roger.

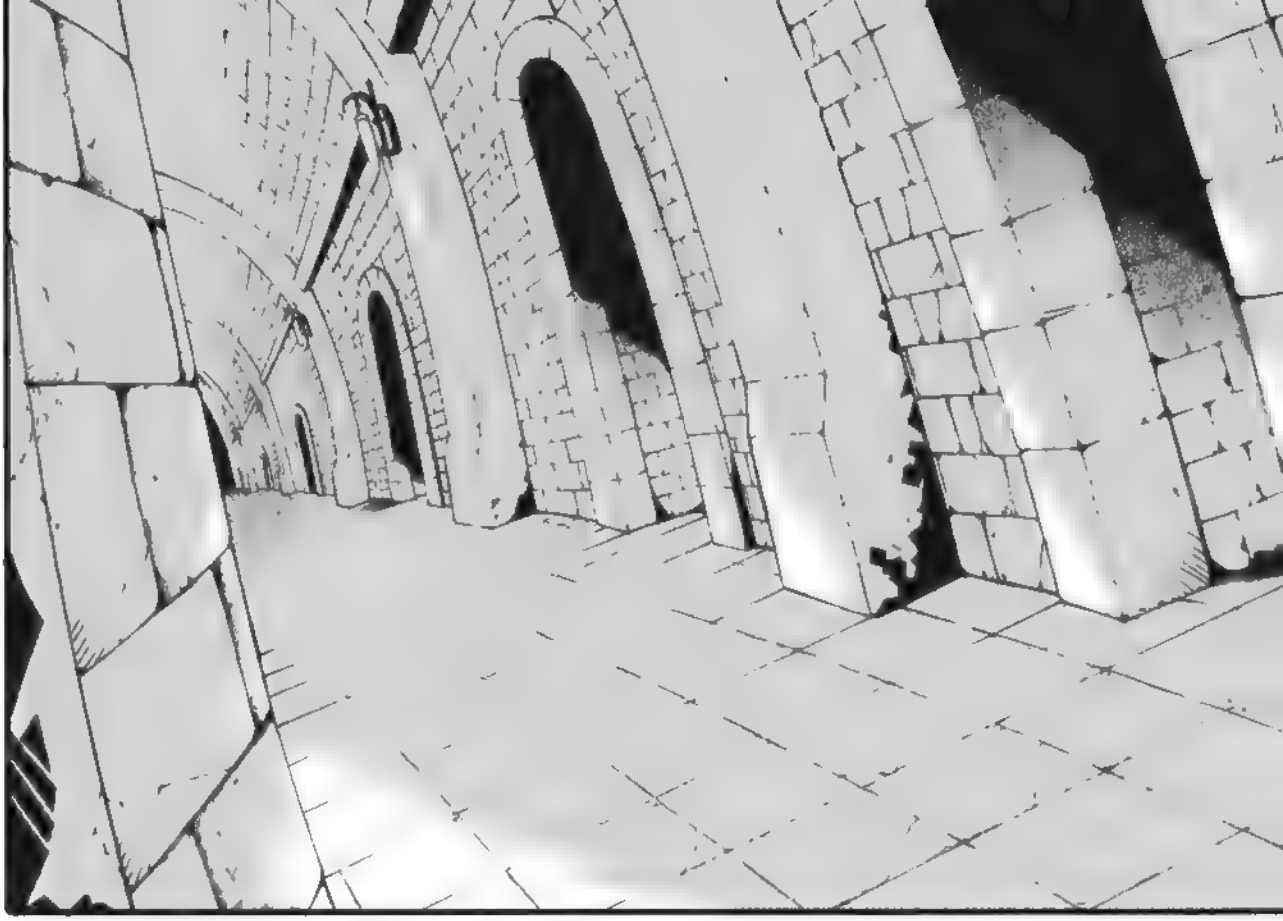
THIS WAY, WE CAN KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE THE CASTLE.
PUTTING OX-KUN ON THE TEAM SURE WAS THE RIGHT CALL...SINCE HIS WAVELENGTH MATCHES YOURS AND ALL.


NICE TRY, MEDUSA... BUT WE AIN'T ABOUT TO JUST LET YOU DO WHATEVER THE HELL YOU WANT WITH OUR KIDS.

ZA (WHOOSH)

OH?
ALL RIGHT.
CAPTAIN SID, THEY'VE ARRIVED.

THAT WAS QUICK.
WELL, YEAH.
IT IS ME, AFTER ALL.



IT'S RIGHT AROUND HERE.

PAKA (POP)

AT THIS POINT, I'M GOING TO NEED TO SEND EACH OF YOU ON YOUR OWN SEPARATE MISSION.

...?

ARACHNE'S ROOM—THE SPIDER QUEEN ROOM—IS PROTECTED BY A STRONG MAGIC-BASED SECURITY SYSTEM.
IN ORDER TO GET INTO THE SPIDER QUEEN ROOM, WE HAVE TO OPEN A NUMBER OF MAGIC GATES.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ALL WE HAVE TO DO TO OPEN THE GATES IS DESTROY ALL THE DEMON TOOL LOCKS THAT CONTROL THEM.
YES, YOU CAN.
BUT WE CAN'T USE MAGIC. ARE WE STILL GOING TO BE ABLE TO OPEN THE GATES?
OPEN GATES?
THERE ARE EIGHT LOCKS IN ALL.
THE LOCKS ARE PLACED IN LOCATIONS THAT EXTEND RADIALLY OUTWARD FROM THE SPIDER QUEEN ROOM.
ONE
TWO
THREE
FOUR
FIVE
SIX
SEVEN
EIGHT

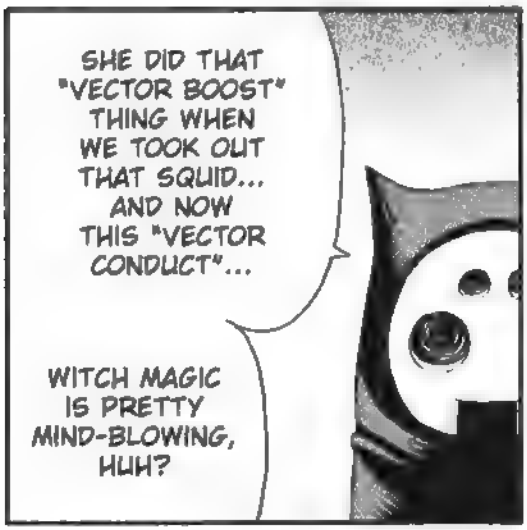
THE OTHER SIX WILL BE DESTROYED BY THE REST OF MY TEAM, INCLUDING ERUKA, THE GIRL YOU JUST MET.
ACTUALLY, I ONLY NEED YOU TO TAKE OUT TWO OF THE DEMON TOOL LOCKS.
BUT HAVING THE LOCKS SPREAD OUT IN EIGHT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS MAKES IT MORE DANGEROUS FOR US.
IT MEANS WEAPONS AND MEISTERS HAVE TO SPLIT UP.
I HAVE TO SAY, I REALLY LIKE THE NUMBER EIGHT...
OH... I GUESS NONE OF YOU HAVE SEEN THE CASTLE FROM THE OUTSIDE, HAVE YOU?
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW, MUCH LESS WHERE TO FIND THE LOCKS.
EVEN SO, HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIND OUR WAY TO THE LOCK LOCATIONS?
EACH OF THE EIGHT LEGS HOUSES ONE LOCK.
BABA YAGA CASTLE HAS EIGHT TOWERS THAT EXTEND OUT LIKE THE LEGS OF A SPIDER.

BOON (VWOOM)
Nake snake cobra cobbra.
VECTOR CON-DUCT.
ANYWAY, I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO GET TO THE TOWERS. OX-KUN... KILIK-KUN...
COME OVER HERE.
?
LOOK AT THE PATH-WAY.
WHAT DID YOU JUST DO?
WHAT THE ...?
WHOA!?
AN ARROW!?
HUH? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING ...
PA (FLASH)

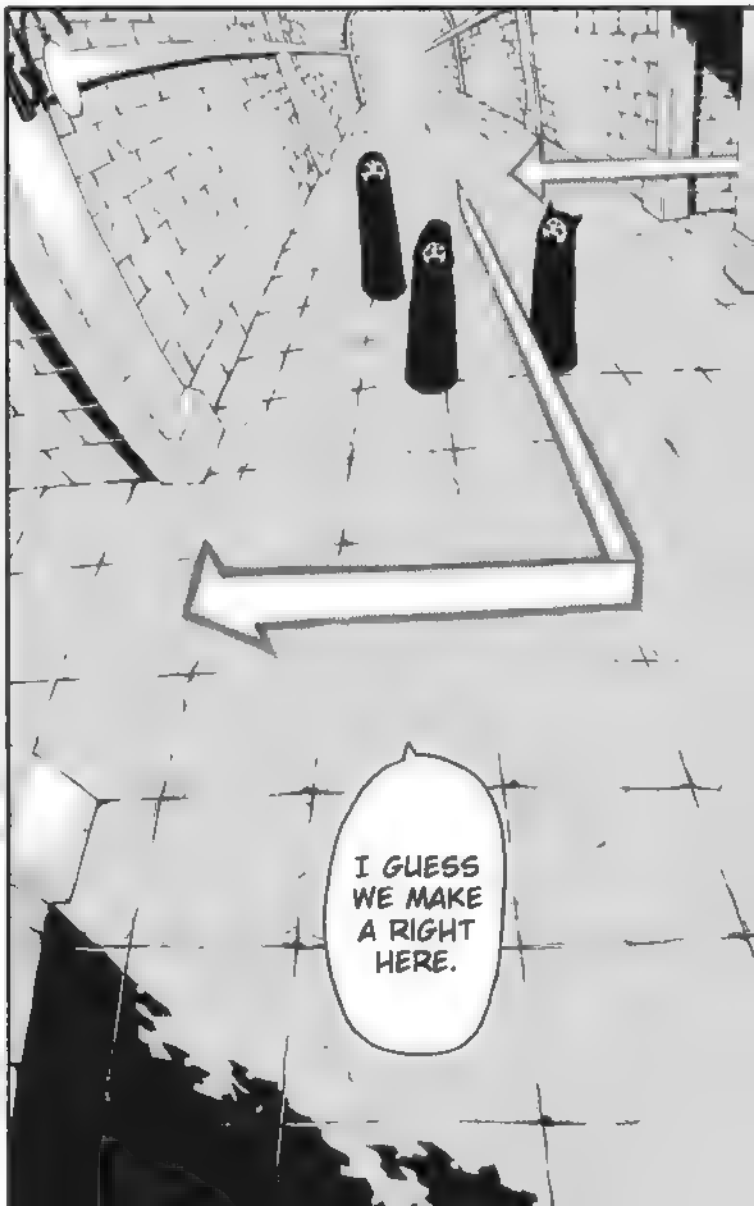
IT'S CALLED "VECTOR CONDUCT."
I GO THROUGH AND PLANT INVISIBLE MARKERS AHEAD OF TIME AND THEN USE MAGIC TO ENABLE YOU TO SEE THEM.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS FOLLOW THE ARROWS, AND THEY'LL LEAD YOU RIGHT TO THE LOCKS.
OH...SO THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT BY "PREPARATIONS"...
EXACTLY. AND AS FOR THE ROUTE TO THE OTHER LOCK... KID-KUN, I'M SENDING YOU TO THAT ONE.
WHAT!? NOW WAIT JUST A MINUTE...
MY JOB IS MONITORING YOU. THAT'S THE MISSION I'VE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH.
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO LET YOU OUT OF MY SIGHT.
UM... MEDUSA?
WHAT IS IT, MAKA-CHAN?
IS THERE SOME REASON YOU CAN'T SEND US INSTEAD...?
UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE ONE MORE TRAP TO GET PAST BEFORE WE CAN REACH ARACHNE.
AND MAKA-CHAN, I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR SOUL PERCEPTION ABILITY IN ORDER TO MAKE IT THROUGH.

MAKA ...
WE CAN'T REALLY WASTE ANY MORE TIME ARGUING ABOUT IT.
OKAY, THEN LET ME TAKE CHARGE OF MONITORING MEDUSA!! OUT OF EVERYONE HERE, I'M THE ONE WHO HAS THE MOST AGAINST HER, ANYWAY.
BUT ...
BESIDES, WITH KID-KUN'S STRENGTH... HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THE LOCK ALL BY HIMSELF.
EVERYTHING'S GOING THE WAY MEDUSA WANTS IT TO...
I DON'T LIKE THIS...
BOOM (WHOOM)
VECTOR CONDUCT.
YOU TOO, KID.
WATCH YOUR BACKS, YOU GUYS...
YUP.
I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU.
YEAH, I'M COM-ING.
'KAY.
C'MON LIZ, PATTY... LET'S GO.

YEAH !!
I JUST WANTED TO SAY... WE WILL DEFINITELY BRING KIM BACK HOME TO DWMA WITH US!!
OX-KUN, WAIT.
HUH? MAKA?
?


SHE DID THAT "VECTOR BOOST" THING WHEN WE TOOK OUT THAT SQUID... AND NOW THIS "VECTOR CONDUCT"...
WITCH MAGIC IS PRETTY MIND-BLOWING, HUH?

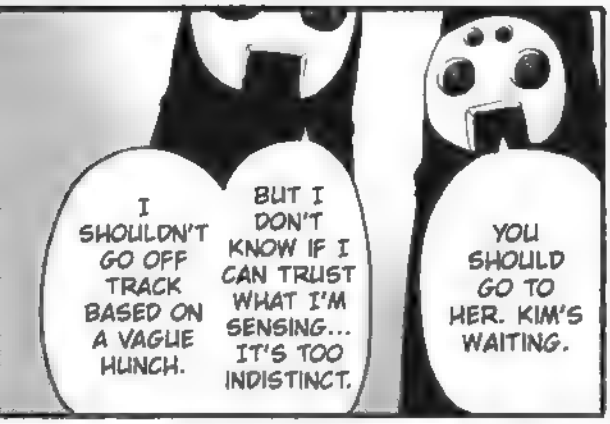
I HAD HER GO AHEAD AND DO ANOTHER VECTOR BOOST ON ME JUST IN CASE.
I'VE GOT TWO SHOTS STOCKED UP...ONE FOR THE LEFT AND ONE FOR THE RIGHT. I BETTER SAVE 'EM FOR WHEN I NEED 'EM.


I GUESS WE MAKE A RIGHT HERE.

I DIDN'T TAKE IT LIKE THAT.
NO, IT'S COOL.
OH SHIT... I'M SORRY, MAN. I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT. I WASN'T TRYING TO BADMOUTH KIM OR NOTHING.
YEAH... A WITCH
I GUESS. BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT BEING COMPATIBLE WITH A WITCH.
YOU KNOW, KILIK, SEEMS LIKE YOU AND THAT MAGIC WORK TOGETHER PRETTY WELL.
MY SOUL PERCEPTION'S NOT...WELL, IT'S NOT AT THE LEVEL OF MAKA'S OR KID'S. I MEAN, I FEEL LIKE MAYBE I COULD PICK UP KIM'S WAVELENGTH...YOU KNOW, BECAUSE IT'S KIM'S AND EVERYTHING, BUT...
DO YOU SENSE, LIKE... KIM'S SOUL WAVELENGTH OR ANYTHING? SHE'S GOTTA BE SOMEWHERE IN THIS CASTLE, RIGHT?
NO...
BUT YOU STILL DON'T SENSE ANYTHING?

I WONDER IF IT'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH THOSE "DEMON TOOL SOLDIERS" THAT MOSQUITO WAS TALKING ABOUT...
FEELS LIKE WE'VE BEEN SEEING A LOT MORE OF THOSE WHITE-COAT ONES SINCE WE ENTERED THIS BLOCK.
...
SURE TOOK ENOUGH WORK, DIDN'T IT?
JUDGING FROM THOSE RESULTS, I'D SAY THE MORALITY MANIPULATION MACHINE SEEMS GOOD TO GO AT THIS POINT.
...
YOU'RE RIGHT, HARVAR-KUN... SORRY.
HEY, COME ON, YOU GUYS... ALL WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW IS JUST KEEP FOLLOWING THESE ARROWS.
!!
KIM ...
C'MON, OX. WE'RE GOING.
THEN LET'S GO.
...

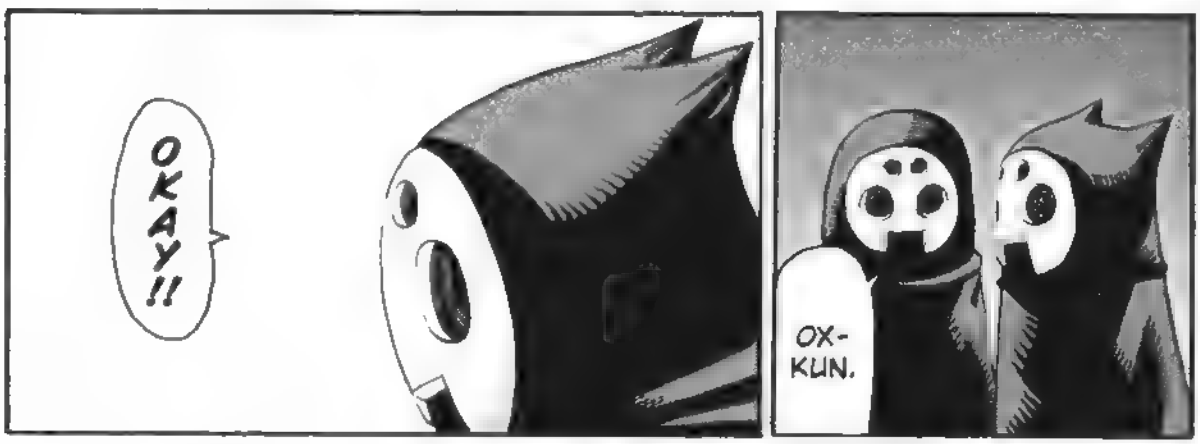
KIM... IS DOWN THIS WAY...?


I SHOULDN'T GO OFF TRACK BASED ON A VAGUE HUNCH.
BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN TRUST WHAT I'M SENSING... IT'S TOO INDISTINCT.
YOU SHOULD GO TO HER. KIM'S WAITING.

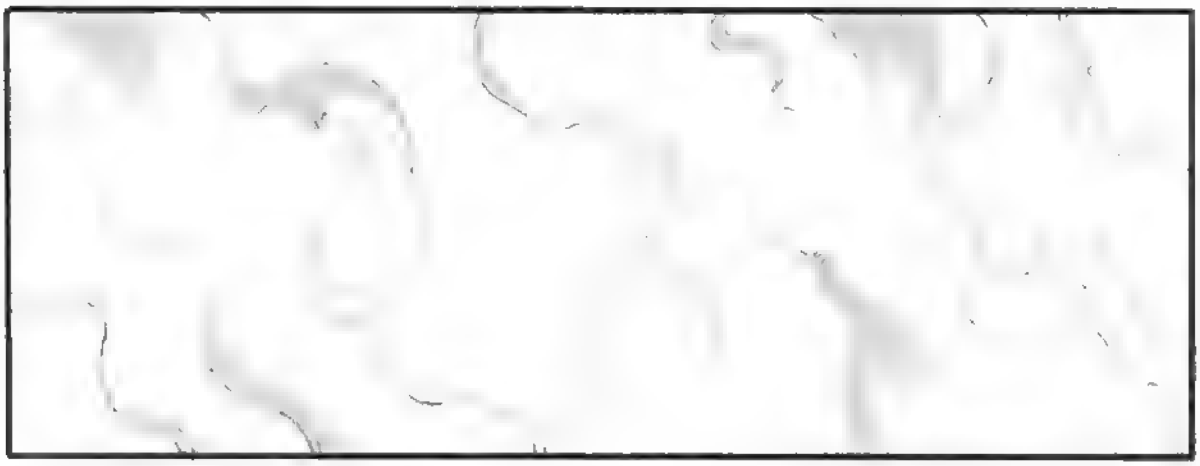
BUT I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S KIM'S WAVELENGTH OR NOT... IT'S PRETTY FAR OFF.
SERIOUSLY, OX? DUDE, YOU DID IT!

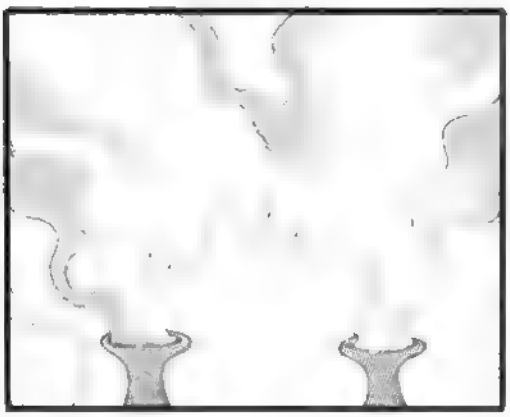
KILIK...
BUT YOU... YOU LOVE KIM! SO WHAT ABOUT YOUR "TWO PILLARS," HUH!? OR WAS THAT ALL JUST BULLSHIT?
DESTROYING THE LOCK IS NOTHING...I CAN TOTALLY TAKE CARE OF IT MYSELF.
THAT COULD BE KIM DOWN THERE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT, MAN!!?

I SWEAR... IF YOU TRY TO COME THIS WAY, I'M GONNA USE BOTH THESE VECTOR BOOSTS RIGHT HERE!
THE ONLY ARROWS I CAN SEE ARE POINTING THAT WAY, MAN!!


OKAY!!
OX-KUN.

HE IS SO GONNA GET US BUSTED ...
A LITTLE LOUD THERE ...
?
?
GO, OX!! GO FOR THE SAKE OF THE GIRL!!

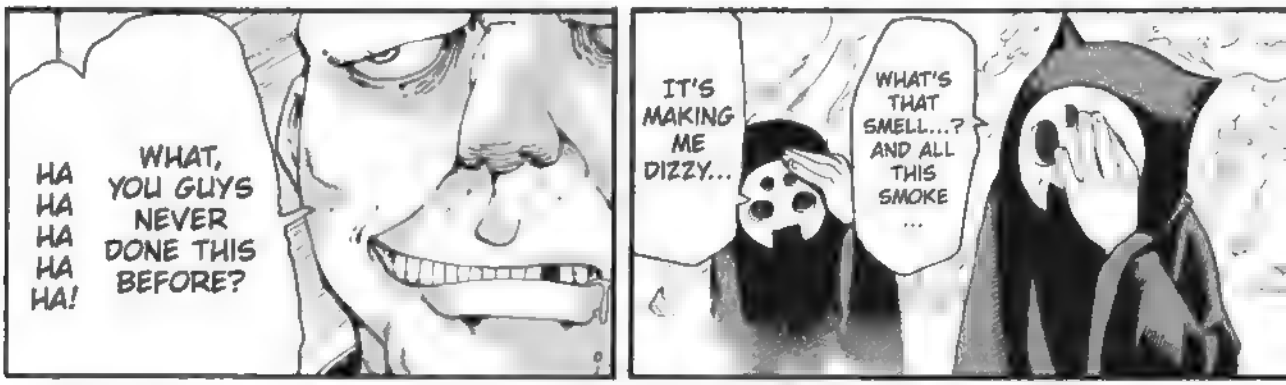


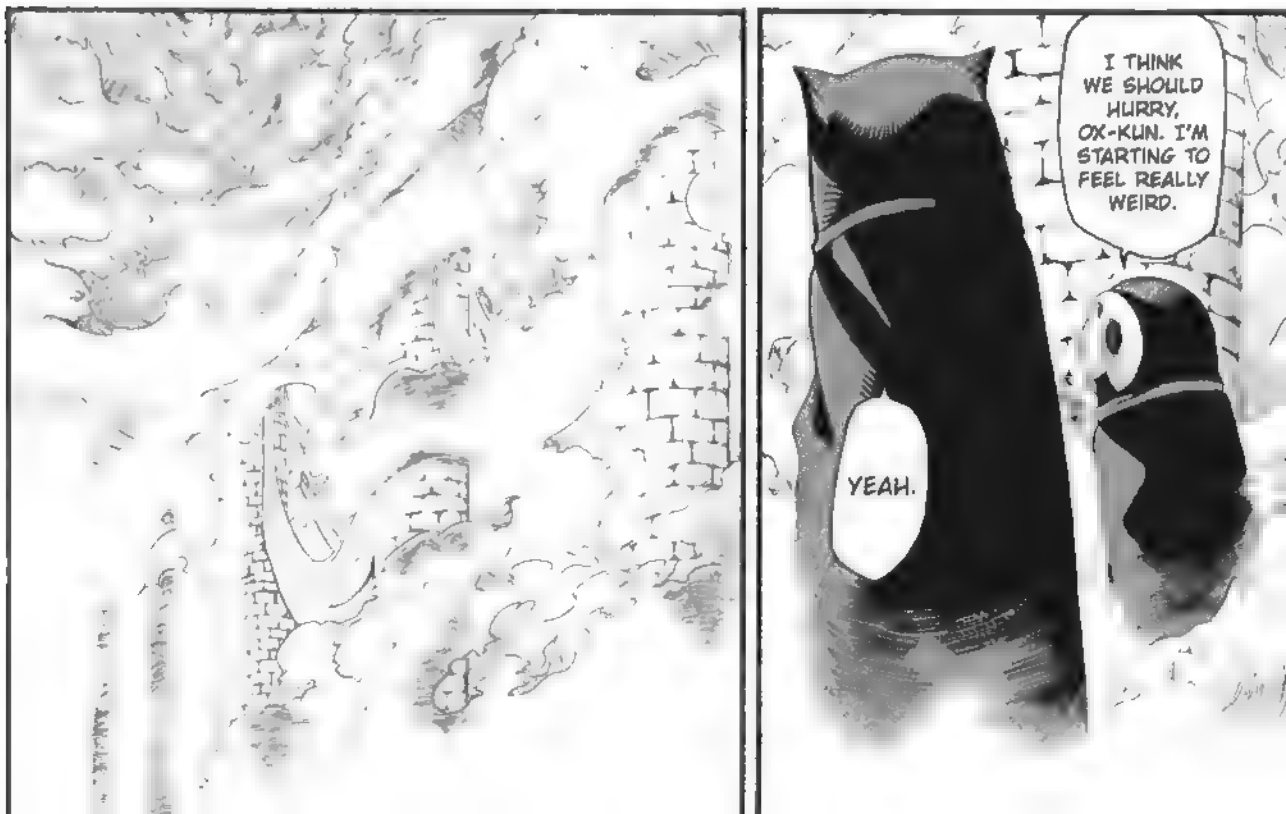


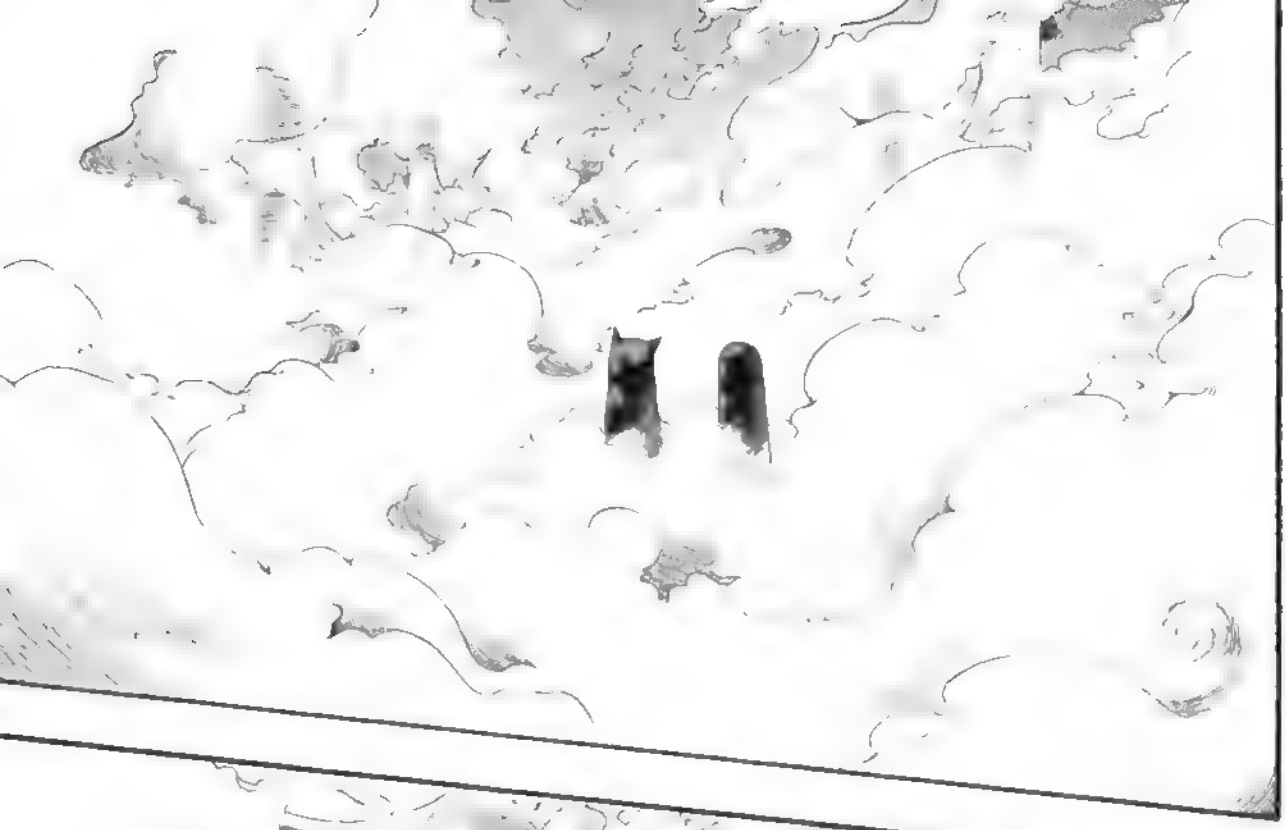
AND NOW HE'S ANOTHER REASON WHY WE HAVE TO FIND KIM AND BRING HER HOME.
YEAH, HE IS, HARVAR-KUN.
...KILIK'S A REALLY GOOD GUY, HUH?
HEY, OX-KUN ...

WHAT IS THIS PLACE ...?

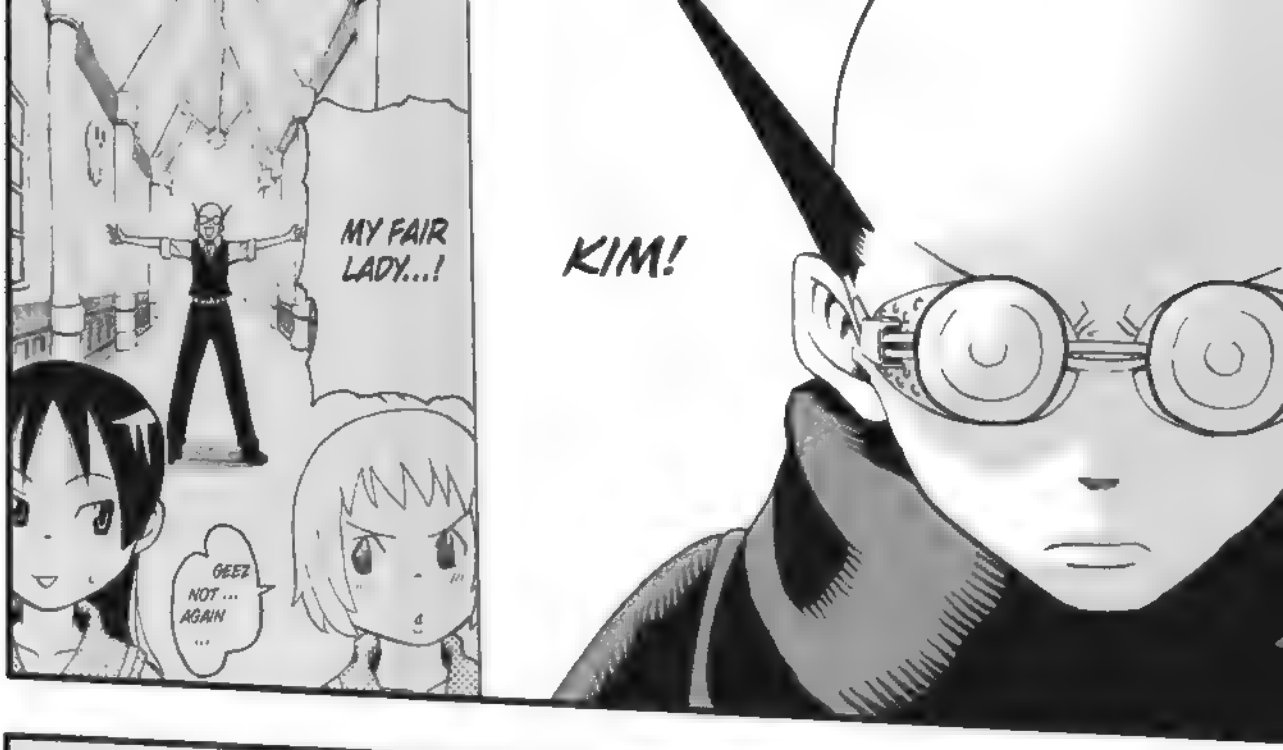
...TAKE 'EM OFF, MAN...
YOU DON'T NEED NO MASKS AND CLOAKS IN HERE, MAN...
HA HA HA HA!
WHAT IS WITH THEM?
.....

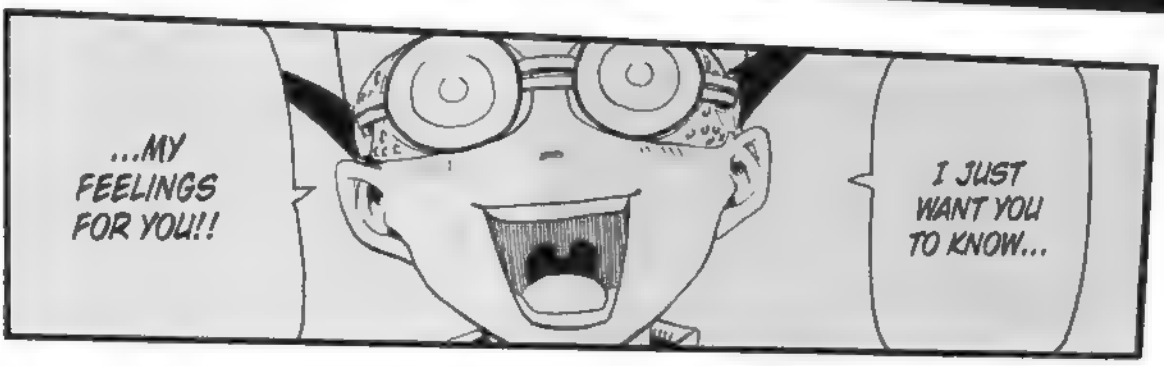

HA HA HA HA!
WHAT, YOU GUYS NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE?
IT'S MAKING ME DIZZY...
WHAT'S THAT SMELL...? AND ALL THIS SMOKE ...

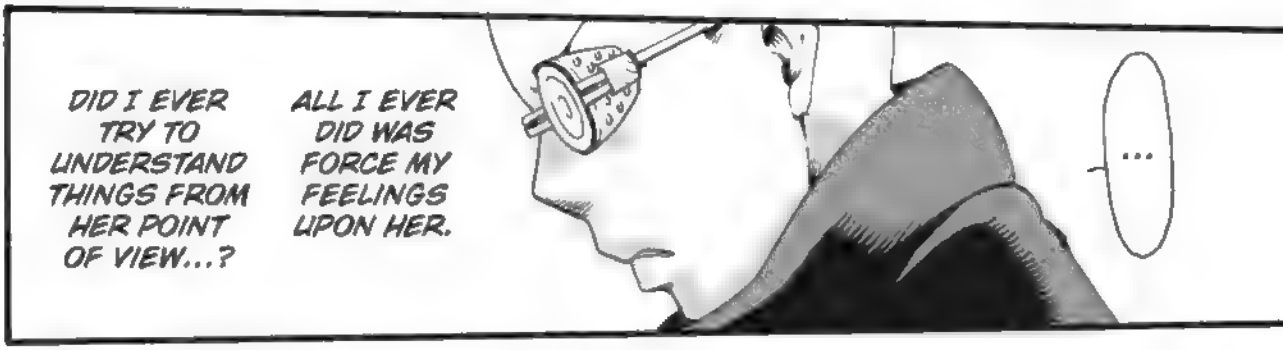

I THINK WE SHOULD HURRY, OX-KUN. I'M STARTING TO FEEL REALLY WEIRD.
YEAH.



I'LL TRY LOOKING THIS WAY.
I CAN FEEL KIM'S WAVE-LENGTH CLOSE BY, BUT...
BASA (SHFF)
IT'S HARD TO MAKE OUT ANYTHING IN HERE.


MY FAIR LADY...!
GEEZ NOT... AGAIN...
KIM!


...MY FEELINGS FOR YOU!!
I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW...


DID I EVER TRY TO UNDERSTAND THINGS FROM HER POINT OF VIEW...?
ALL I EVER DID WAS FORCE MY FEELINGS UPON HER.
...

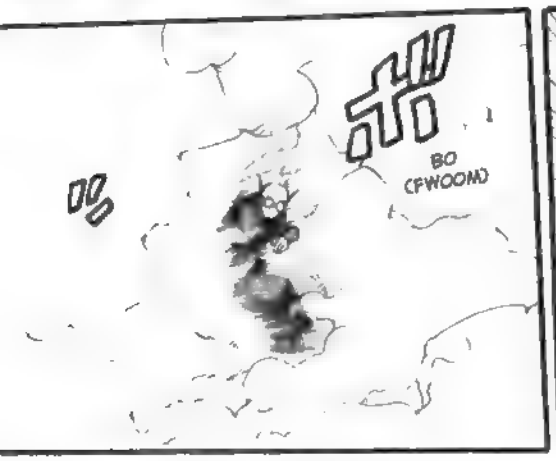
MAYBE THEN KIM WOULDN'T HAVE FELT LIKE SHE HAD TO LEAVE DWMA...

IF ONLY I'D KNOWN SHE WAS A WITCH... MAYBE I COULD'VE BEEN THERE FOR HER, HELPED HER COPE...
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT...

I WANT TO TELL HER HOW SORRY I AM...
I HAVE TO SEE HER AGAIN...
SENSE HER...

ドクン
DOKUN (HEARTBEAT)

COME ON... SENSE KIM'S SOUL WAVE-LENGTH!!
"THE INTELLIGENCE TO HELP THE ONES I LOVE"... "THE STRENGTH TO KEEP THEM SAFE FROM HARM"... WHAT ARE THESE TWO PILLARS OF MINE FOR IF I CAN'T MAKE GOOD ON THEM?


ボ
BO (FWOOM)

ダ
DA (DASH)

THIS WAY ...?

KIM!!

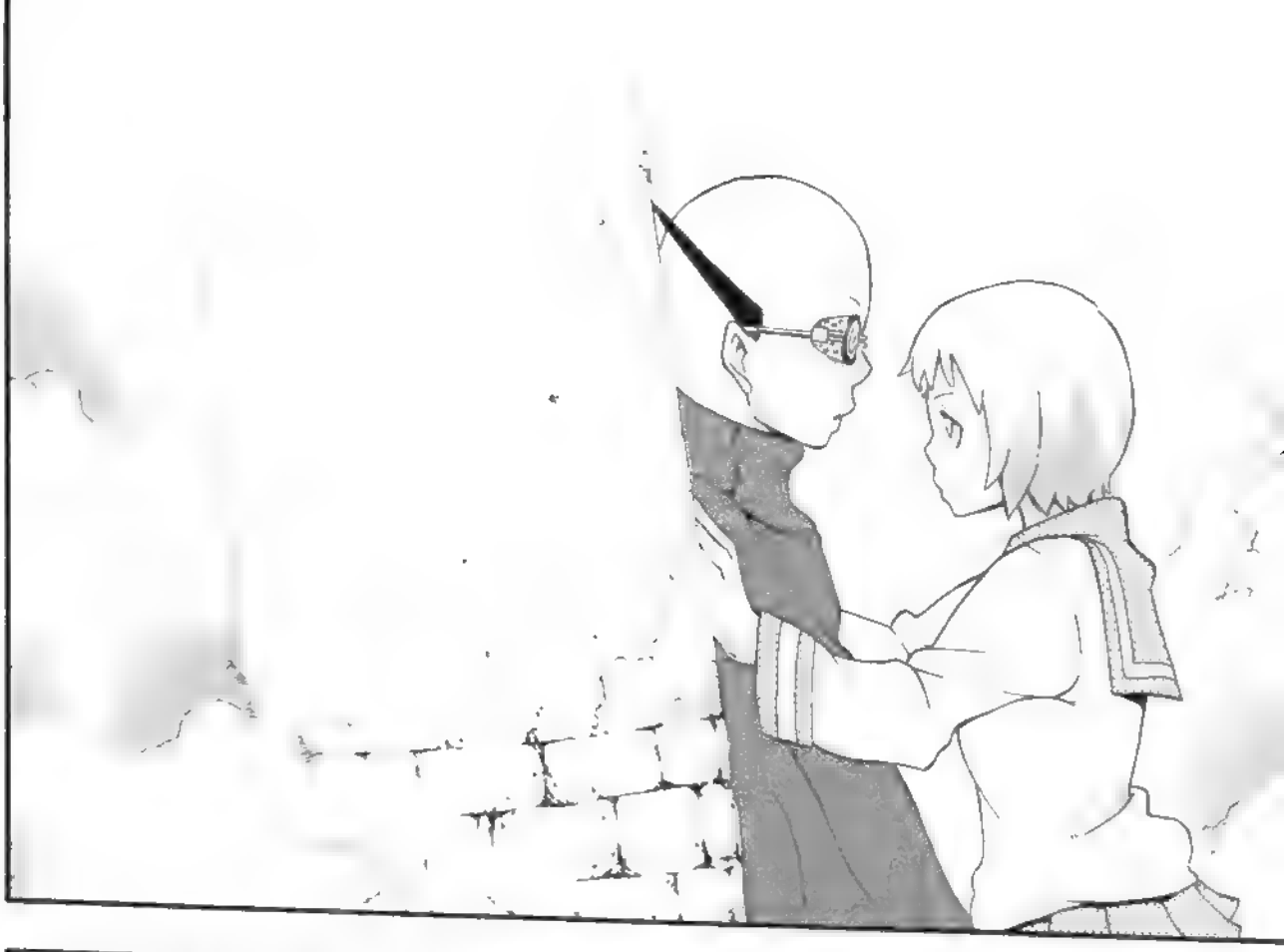
SO BEAU-TIFUL ...
!!
C'MON, JACKIE. WE NEED TO HURRY.

OX...

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HAPPY I AM TO SEE YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

MMM ...
ANYWAY, JUST FOLLOW ME.
LET'S ALL GO BACK TO DWMA TOGETHER.
AND YOU TOO, JACKIE!! EVERYONE'S HERE.

TON (THMP)
...?



WHY DON'T YOU TAKE OFF THIS STIFLING CLOAK...
PACHI (SNAP)
PACHI

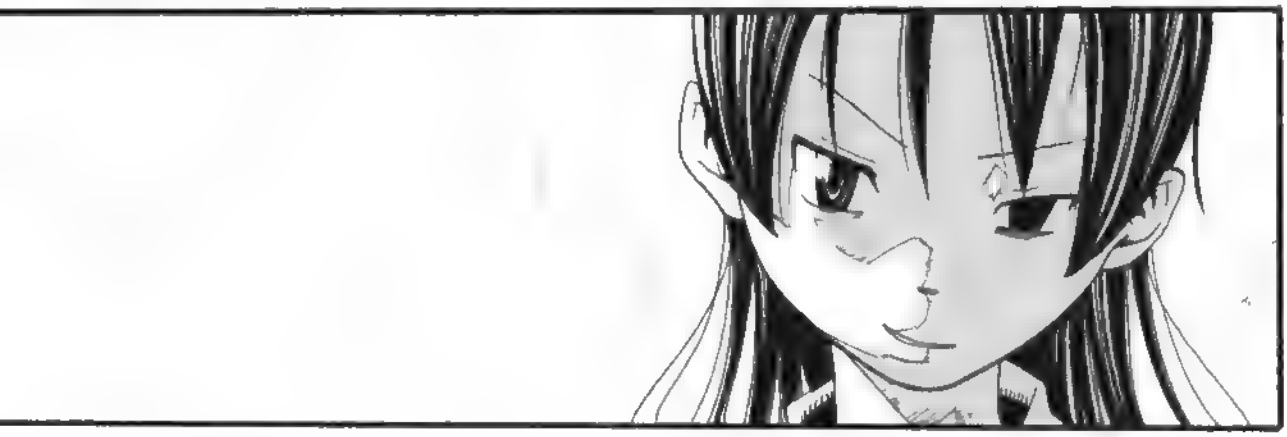
YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO RESCUE ME.
UHH... KIM...?

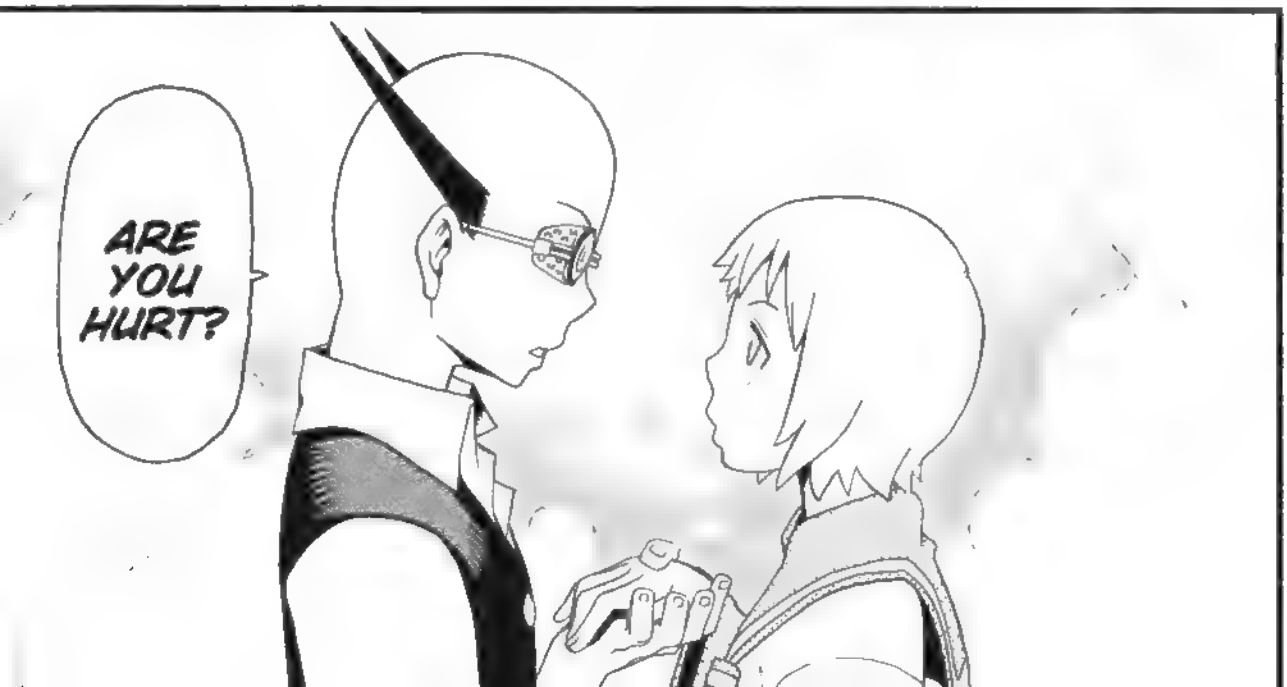
PASA (FLAP)

K...KIM...? WH...WH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WH... WHY NOW ALL OF A SUDDEN...?
YOU LIKE ME, DON'T YOU?
I NEED TO THANK YOU FOR COMING TO SAVE ME...
RIGHT?
GOSO (RUB)
GOSO

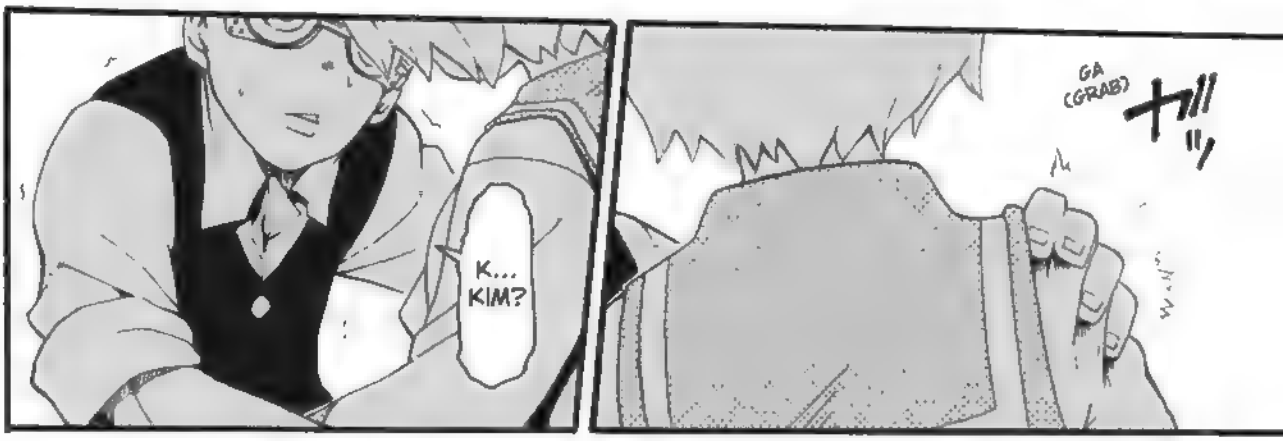
コテ-
KOTEN (TUMBLE)
BA (SHOVE)
STOP!!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU!?
THIS ISN'T YOU. YOU HAVE MORE SELF-RESPECT THAN THIS.
PLEASE... STOP ACTING LIKE THIS. IT'S BENEATH YOU.

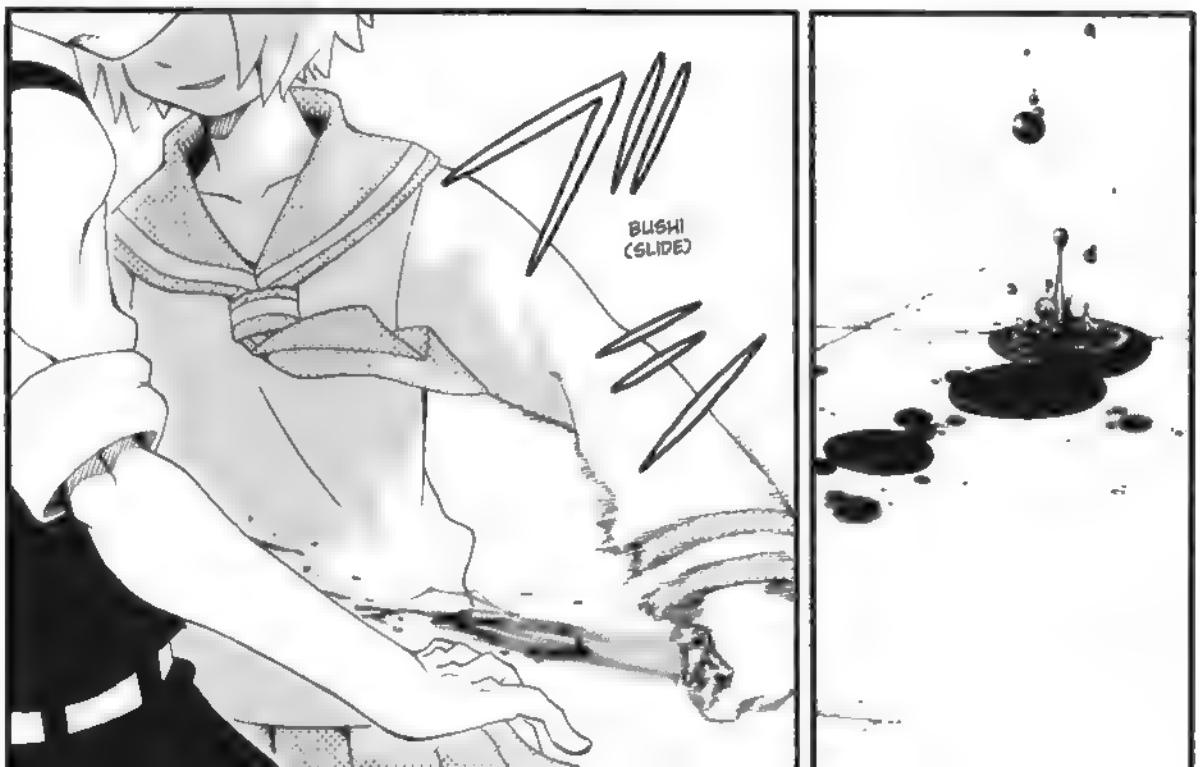
I'M REALLY SORRY.
OH...
OW ...
NO, I'M SORRY. I WAS JUST SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU.




ARE YOU HURT?

DOSU
(STAB)

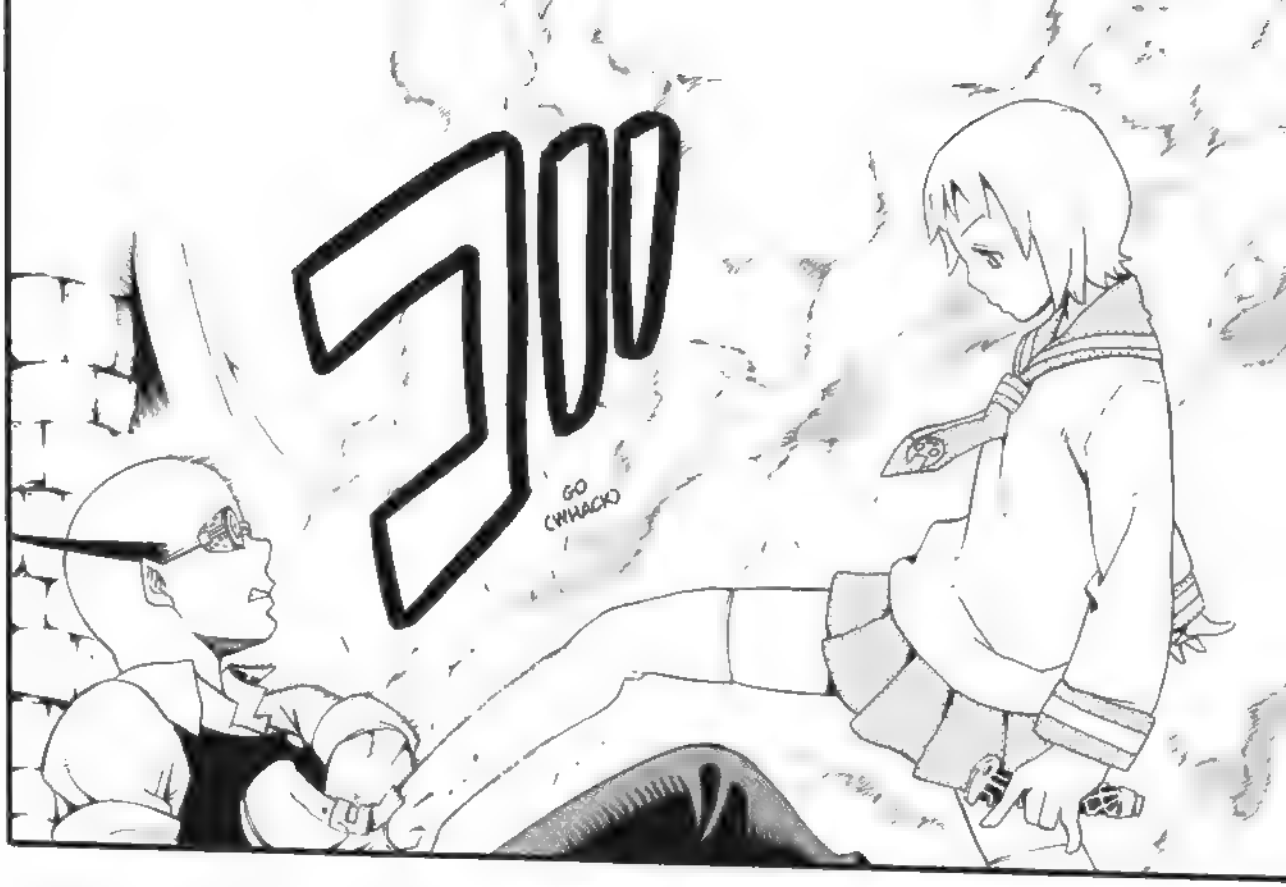

K...
KIM?
GA
(GRAB)


BUSHI
(SLIDE)

GAKU (COLLAPSE)
SHUUUU (STEAM)

WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, ANYWAY?
YOU STAB HIM LIKE THAT, AND HE'LL END UP DYING ON US.
OH MAN... THAT WAS TOO DEEP, KIM.

AH... GHH...
WELL, YOU'RE A FUCKING MORON.
NICE GUYS ARE BORING. THAT'S ALL THEY ARE. I BET YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE PRETTY COOL, DIDN'T YOU?


300
GO
(WHACK)

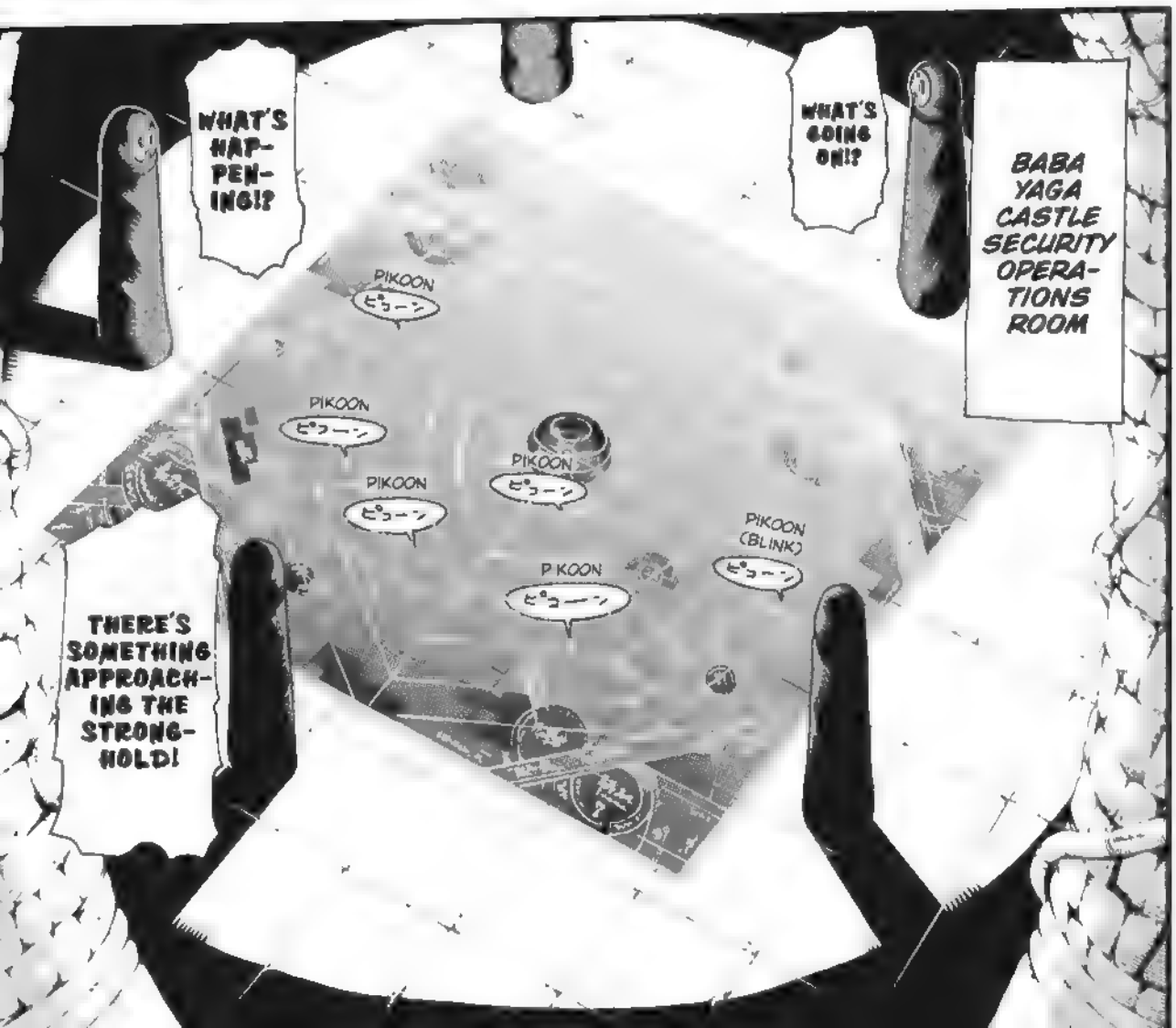
CARRYING ALL THAT BAGGAGE AROUND FOR NO REASON IS JUST POINTLESS.
MORALITY'S NOTHING BUT BAGGAGE.

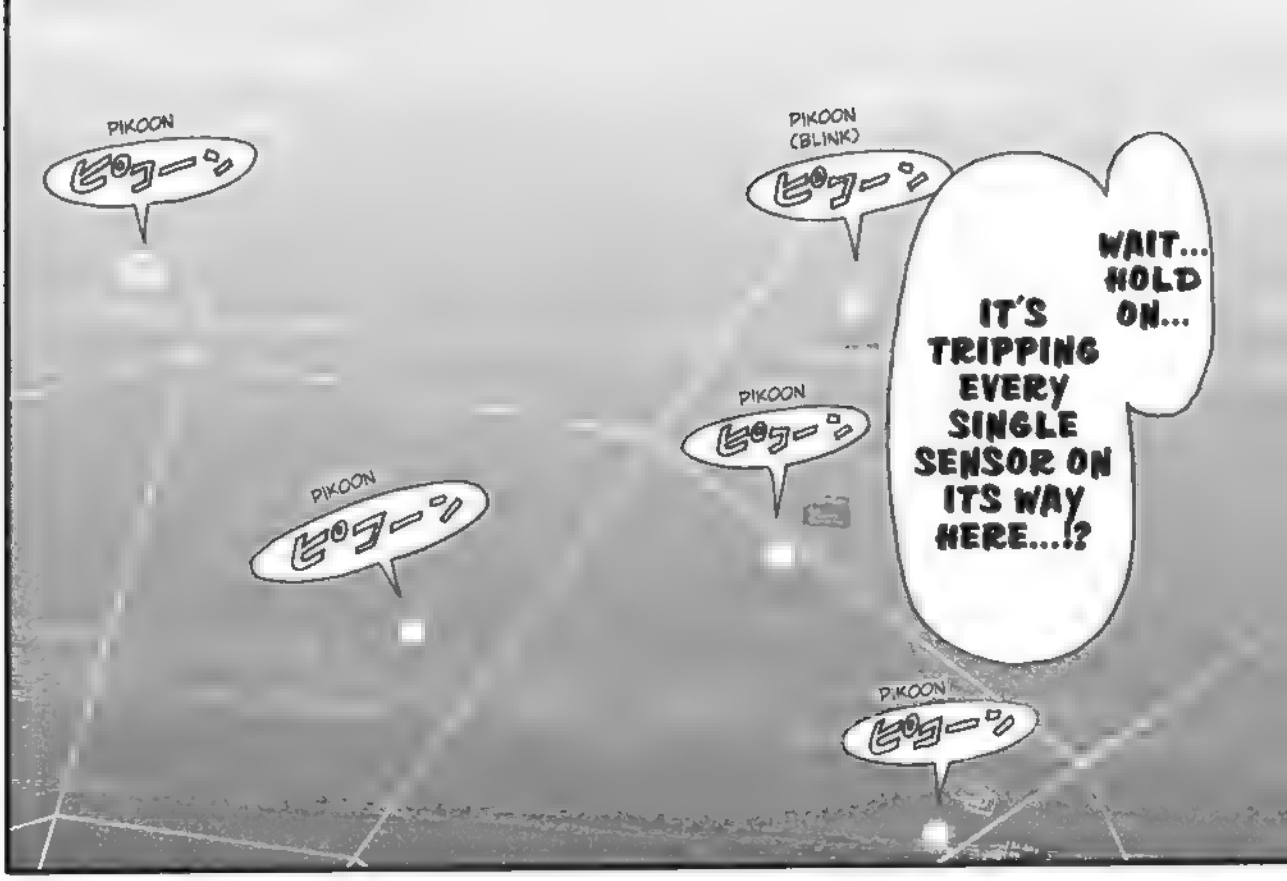
THAT MUST BE IT...
JUDGING FROM THOSE RESULTS, I'D SAY THE MORALITY MANIPULATION MACHINE SEEMS GOOD TO GO AT THIS POINT...

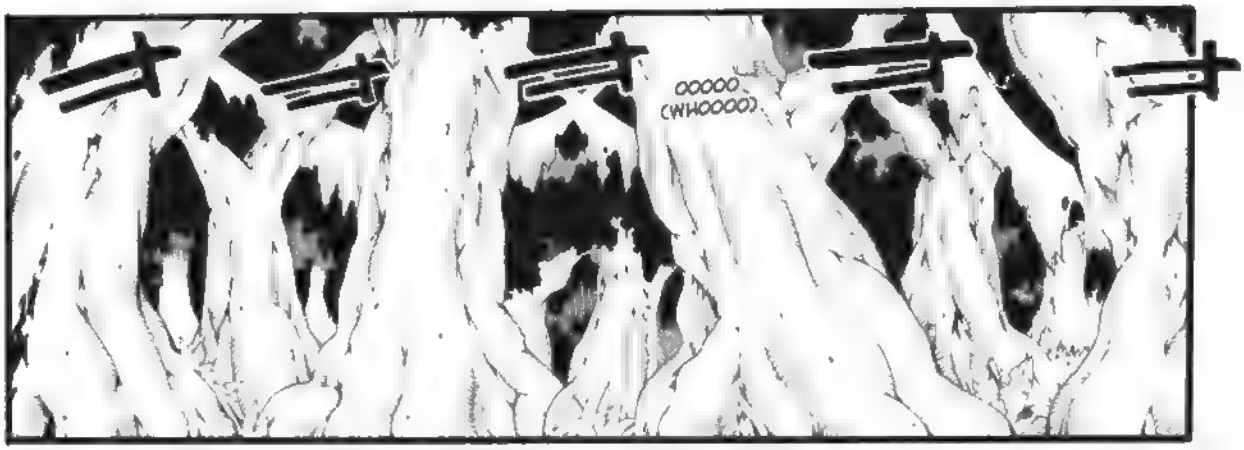
ARACHNO-PHOBIA'S ALL THE RAGE NOW.
DWMA IS SO YESTER-DAY.
SHIT...THIS IS BAD. I'M LOSING TOO MUCH BLOOD...
WOOON
WOOON
!?
WOOON
WOOON
...
AN ALARM?
WHAT'S THAT?

WOOOW
ZZZZ ZZZZ...
WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS?
WHAT'S THE ALARM FOR?
WOOOW
WOOOW
WHAT IS GOING ON?
SHUT UP!! TOO LOUD!!
WHAT IS IT!? WHAT IS IT!?
WOOOW
DID SOME-ONE SEE ME!?
OH SHIT ...!
WOOOW
WOOOW
WAIT, I KNOW THIS SOUL WAVE-LENGTH ...!!
I DON'T KNOW.
...WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?
WOO
ME-DUSA ...

KACHA (CLACK)
カチャ
THIS BLOOD-LUST...
...HE'S HERE.


BABA YAGA CASTLE SECURITY OPERA-TIONS ROOM
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
WHAT'S HAP-PEN-ING!?
PIKOON
ピューン
PIKOON
ピューン
PIKOON
ピューン
PIKOON
ピューン
PIKOON (BLINK)
ピューン
P KOON
ピューン
THERE'S SOMETHING APPROACH-ING THE STRONG-HOLD!


PIKOON
ピコーン
PIKOON
(BLINK)
ピコーン
PIKOON
ピコーン
PIKOON
ピコーン
PIKOON
ピコーン
WAIT... HOLD ON...
IT'S TRIPPING EVERY SINGLE SENSOR ON ITS WAY HERE...!?

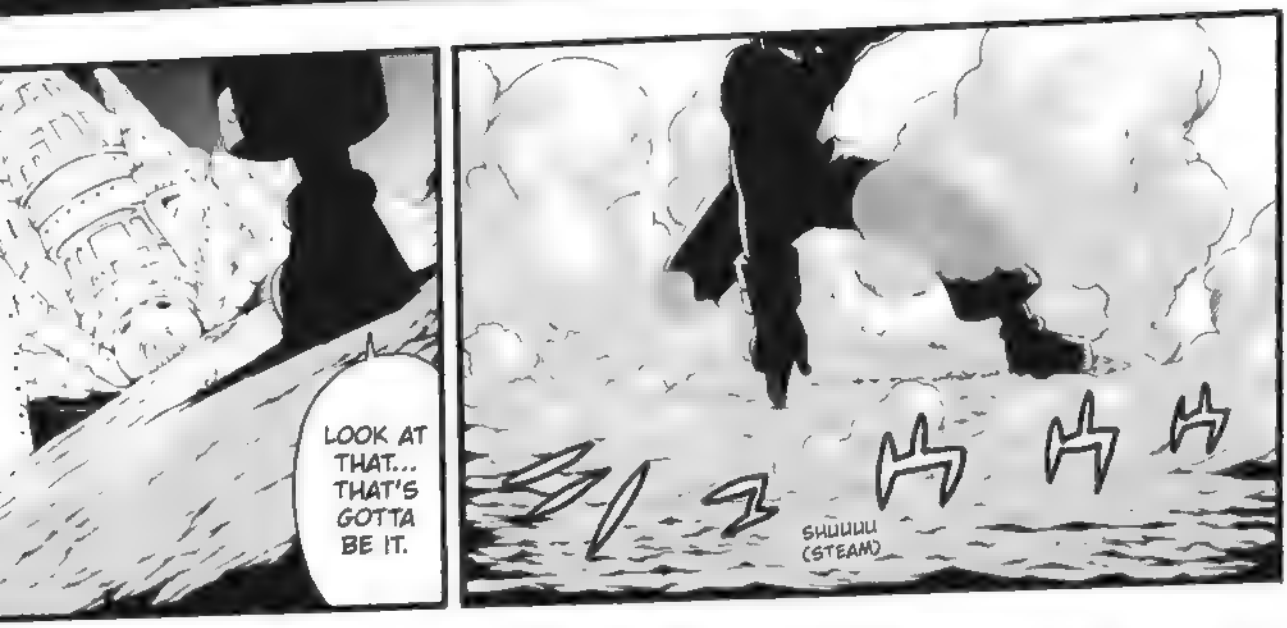

OOOOO
(WHOOOO)

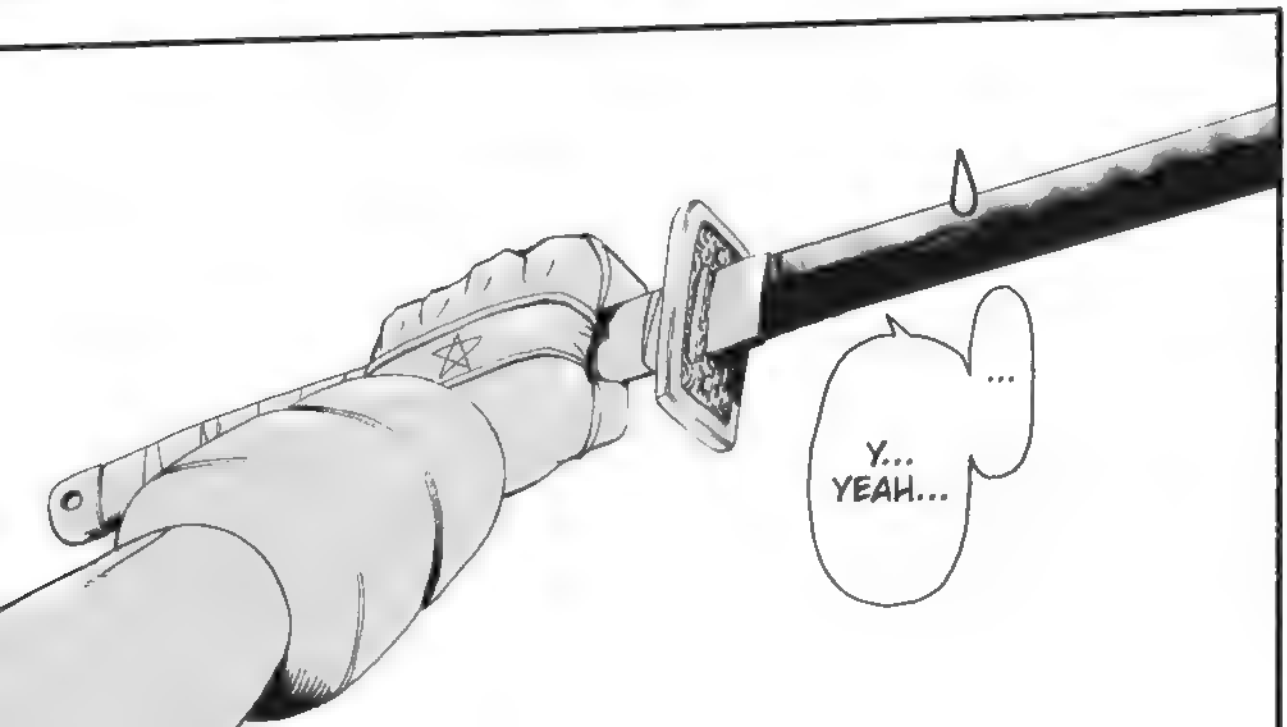
GA
GA
GA
GA
(CRASH)
GA

WHAT!?
HE, UH, DIDN'T WANT TO WAIT FOR ORDERS, AND...
UM, THAT GUY WHO JUST ARRIVED A LITTLE BIT AGO...?
CAPTAIN SID!!!
WHAT IS IT?
AAAAAAAAAAHHH!
GA
GA
GA
GA
WHERE'S THAT DAMN BABA YAGA CASTLE ...!!!?
WHERE IS IT!!!?

DO
(WHOOM)
HYAHAAAA!!

ZUZA (SKID)
ZA
ZA
ZA


LOOK AT THAT... THAT'S GOTTA BE IT.
SHUUUU (STEAM)


...
Y... YEAH...

THE GREAT BLACK☆ STAR HAS ARRIVED!!!

SORRY TO KEEP YA WAITIN', CHUMPS.

SOUL EATER 12 END

PREVIEW

THE STAR ALWAYS SHOWS UP LATE TO THE PARTY...!!!

HAS BLACK☆STAR'S SOUL FOUND A WAY TO REACH THE WILL OF NAKATSUKASA?

THE HESITA-TION IN MY SOUL IS GONE NOW.
MY PATH IS NOT THE PATH OF THE DEMON...
MY PATH HAS LED ME TO YOU... AND I'M GETTING PAST YOU, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

Continued in Soul Eater Volume 13!!

SIGN: KAETTE KITA ATSUSHI-YA
"THE BEST PLACE FOR INCREASING YOUR NUMBER OF FRIENDS," HUH...?
I KNOW I USUALLY LIMIT MY COMMENTS TO SELF-DEPRECATING STUFF, BUT YOU KNOW... THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE TOO BAD OF A PLACE AT ALL.
THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD FOR RAPIDLY INCREASING YOUR NUMBER OF FRIENDS...
THIS IS ATSUSHI-YA...
ヒュオオオオ
HYUOOOO (HOWL)
To. Be. Honest. Even. My. Now-Dead. Colleagues. Meant. Nothing. To. Me.
Our. Relationship. Is. Devoid. Of. Human. Warmth. We. Are. Work. Colleagues. Only. Connected. As. Paid. Employees.
FRIENDS!? HUH!?
GO ON... JUST GO RIGHT ON MAKING FUN OF ME LIKE THAT.
WHAT!?
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA!!
AHH-HA-HA-HA-HA!
WELL... THE ANIME MAY BE PRETTY DANG AWESOME, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE READS THIS GUY'S MANGA.
BUT WHAT'S THE STORY WITH THIS BAR, ANYWAY...? IT'S NOTHING BUT EMPLOYEES. THERE'S NEVER ANY CUSTOMERS.

SHUT THE HELL UP, YOU JUNK-ASS BUCKET OF BOLTS!! DON'T INTERRUPT WHEN SOMEONE ELSE IS TALKING!!
GAN (WHAM)
That. Is. The. Stupidest. Thing. I. Ever. Heard.
This. Bar. Is. Always. Completely. Empty.
YESTERDAY I RECEIVED A PHONE CALL.
DON'T BE SHOCKED... IT WAS A CALL FOR A RESERVATION. RIGHT HERE AT THIS BAR.
SO WHEN IS THIS IDIOT COMING, ANYWAY?
GYA! GYA!
OF COURSE, YOU'D HAVE TO BE A COMPLETE IDIOT TO WANT TO COME VISIT THIS SAVAGE BAR.
PATA (FLAP)
PATA
PLEASE, SIR... COME RIGHT ON IN.
IN FACT, HE'S ALREADY HERE...!!
DOON (BOOM)
STOP CALLING HIM A STUPID IDIOT!! I DON'T CARE HOW STUPID HE IS... HE'S STILL A CUSTOMER!

IT'S SOMEONE IN OUR CIRCLE...
...
"Customer"
...
PUUN
PUUN (BZZZ)
I'm Takuya Igarashi, director of the anime version of Soul Eater.
It's so gosh-darn nice to meet all of you. ♡
PUUN
HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW...? JUST MAKE UP FOR THE LACK OF CASH WITH A SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM.
SO HOW ARE YOU PLANNING TO PAY US IF THE BAR NEVER HAS ANY BUSINESS, HUH!!?
PUUN
WHOA... THAT'S SOME SERIOUS MISPLACED ANGER THERE...
SHUT THE HELL UP!! OF COURSE IT IS!! YOU THINK SOME RANDOM OFFICE GIRL JUST PASSING BY IS GONNA WALK UP AND TAKE A LOOK AT OUR BAR AND THINK "THIS PLACE LOOKS GREAT, LET'S GO IN"...!? NO ONE FUCKING EVER COMES BESIDES PEOPLE IN OUR CIRCLE!! THAT'S THE KIND OF PLACE THIS IS...!!
GAAAA (ROAR)
PUUN
GASHAAN
GYEEE!!
KNOCK IT OFF!! STOP BREAKING MY PLATES!!
GASHAAN (SMASH)
GYEEE!!

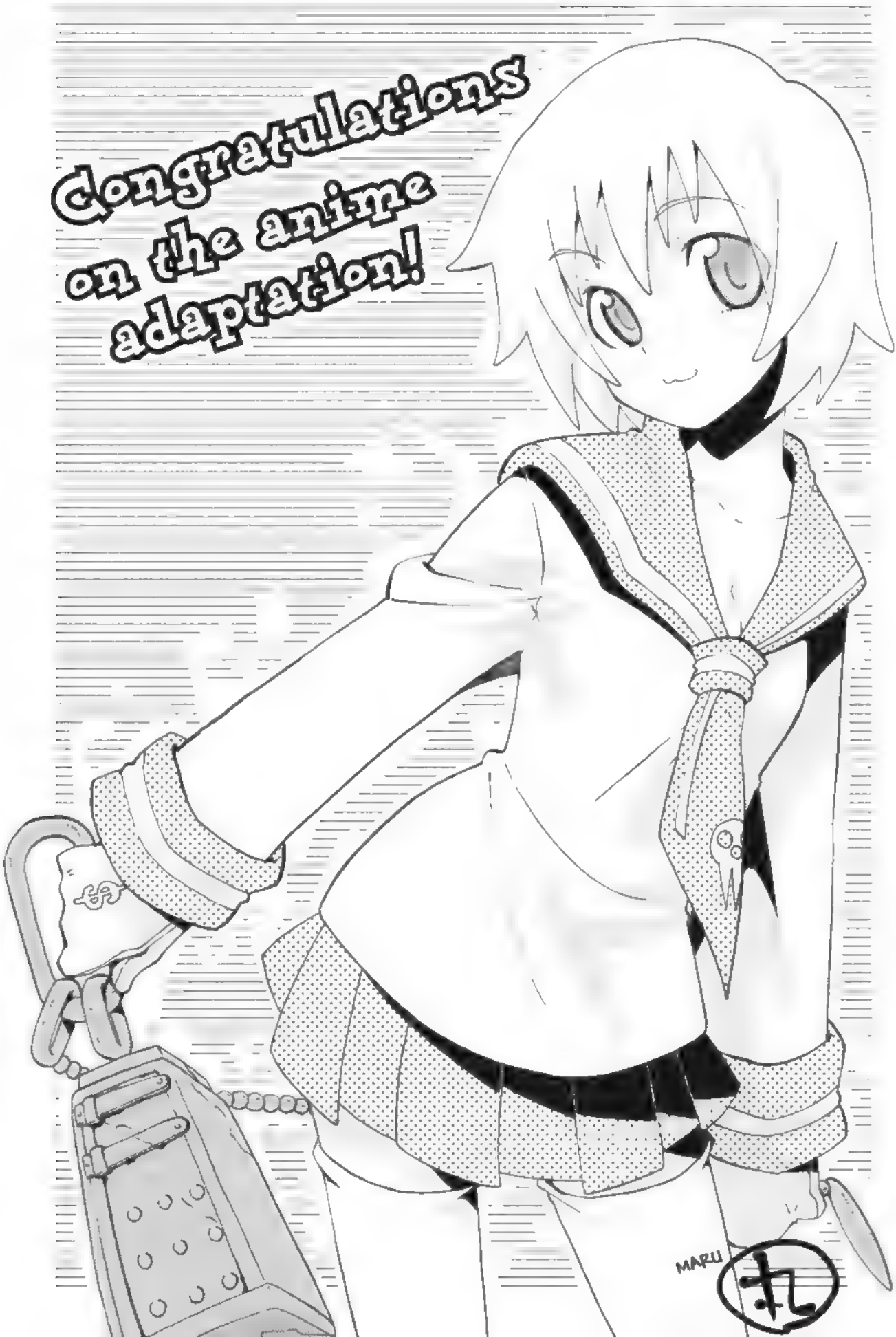
プーン
PUUN
わー
WAA
I'M NOT PAYING YOU SHIT TILL YOU DO WHAT I TELL YOU!!
ぎゃ
GYAA
プーン
PUUN
わぁー
WAAA (RAWR)
IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR BAR TO BE SMASHED TO SMITHEREENS, PAY US OUR WAGES!!
ぎゃー
GYAA (GRR)
Manager! What. Have. You. Done. To. The. Director!?
WHATEVER. ANYONE WHO WANTS HIMSELF DRAWN AS A PIXIE (TRUE STORY!) CAN'T BE TRUSTED ANYWAY.
PUSU
PUSU (STEAM)
HEY YOUUU!! QUIT IT WITH ALL THAT GOD-DAMN BUZZING !!
BACHIKON (SMACK)
OH WELL. WHAT CAN YOU DO.
ずzu ずzu ずzu ずzu (SIP)
A PIXIE!?
A PIXIE!?
Eh!? Pixie!?

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE ANIME ADAPTATION!
DEAR OHKUBO-SAN,
I JUST WANTED TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE TV ANIME ADAPTATION OF THIS SERIES. I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOUR CHARACTERS MOVING AROUND ON SCREEN.
TAKATOSHI SHIOZAWA

WHA ...!?
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS...!?
KAAAA (BLUSH)
BAN (BAM)
MY PA...
GAAN (SHOCK)
KYAAA!
PEOPLE CAN SEE OUR PANTIES NO MATTER HOW HARD WE TRY TO COVER THEM!?
BIRI (RIP)
JIIKO (CRANK)
JIIKO
LOOKS LIKE IT'S STARTING TO TAKE EFFECT...
ZUBA (WHSH)

OH NO...!
BIRIRI
BIRIRI
WITH THIS NEW WEAPON IN PLAY...
...EVEN WITCHES WON'T BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THEIR FOCUS AND CONCENTRATION DURING BATTLES ANYMORE ...
THOSE PANTY-SHOT BOMBERS I PLANTED INSIDE THE SCHOOL LUNCHES ARE WORKING LIKE A CHARM.
JIIKO
JIIKO
CACKLE
CACKLE
EEEK!
NOOO!
CONGRATS ON THE ANIME ADAPTATION!!
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

TOMOYUKI MARU



ATSUSHI-YA: NON-CANONICAL EPISODE
TAPA (CLACK)
TAPA
'SUP?
YO!! HEY, EVERYONE...!! I'VE BEEN WANTING TO SEE YOU GUYS SO BAD!!
KASA (SCUTTLE)
KASA
SERI-OUSLY?
MAN...EVER SINCE I GOT DROPPED FROM ATSUSHI-YA, I'VE BEEN SO UNBELIEVABLY LONELY...!!
GUN (LOOM)
FINE, YOU WERE LONELY. JUST QUIT IT WITH THE CLOSE-UPS. AND DON'T SAY THINGS TWICE...IT'S ANNOYING.
I'M TELLING YOU...I'VE BEEN LONELY!! HONEST! HONEST!!
DO NOT MENTION THAT TITLE IN THE PAGES OF A SQUARE ENIX PUBLICATION.
TIGREX IS, LIKE, SERIOUSLY BRUTAL IF YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.
I MEAN IT, GUYS...YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW LONELY IT IS PLAYING MON-HUN* ALL BY YOURSELF.
PSP
*MONSTER HUNTER

Translation Notes

Common Honorifics

no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

-senpai: A suffix used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.

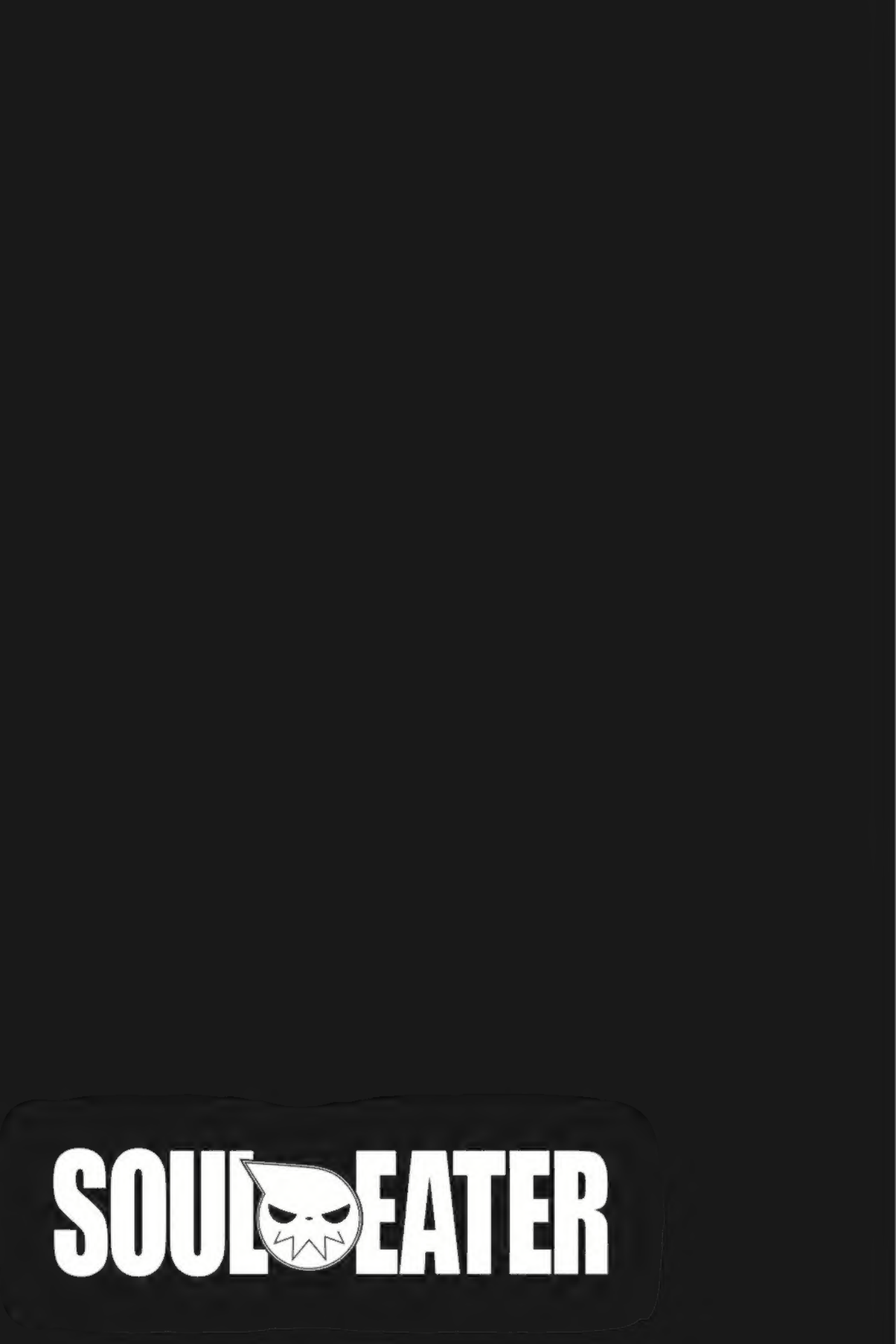
-sensei: A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

Page 41

When Shinigami-sama refers to the comedy technique of **repeating a joke**, he uses comedy lingo, referring to the gag as a *tendon*, which means repeating a comedy bit word-for-word for extra comedic effect. The name literally means "tempura (shrimp) over rice" but acquired this special meaning because it's typical to get two tempura shrimp in a single serving.

Page 123

Chin is a sound effect used for a ding or a ring, but in this case the sound word was chosen specifically to bring to mind the word *chin chin*, Japanese slang for "penis."


SOUL EATER

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Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
237 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017

HachetteBookGroup.com
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First Yen Press ebook Edition: April 2014

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-23731-4

App ISBN: 978-0-316-23837-3